

## VIII. REPORTS OF CONFERENCE BOARDS AND AGENCIES

### COMMITTEE ON RULES

The Rules Committee of the Virginia Annual Conference discussions over the past year focused almost entirely on technical corrections and clarifications to the Virginia Conference Standing Rules of Order and Procedure. This year's proposed amendments and the rationale for each amendment follow:

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- **Rule I.B.3.d – add the words “(hereinafter “United Women in Faith”)” immediately following “United Methodist Women”. Thereafter, in ten additional references to United Methodist Women throughout the Standing Rules, that term is replaced with “United Women in Faith.”**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Rule V.B.4.e – strike the sentence: “The related conference staff person (the Director of Ministries with Young People) and the Director of the Association of Educational Institutions (AEI) will serve as members with voice but no vote.” As amended, this sentence would be replaced with “The designated conference staff person will serve as a member with voice but no vote.”**

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

- **Rule V.C.11 – strike the two references to the “Joint Committee on Incapacity” and replace them with “Joint Commit-**

tee on Clergy Medical Leave.” As amended, the beginning of this rule would read “Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave. There shall be a Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave consisting of ...”.

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

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

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

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

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

- **Technical Changes –**
  - **Rule I.B.4 – change cite of “Paragraphs 3.d-u” to “paragraph “I.B.3.d-v”**
  - **Rule I.B.4 – change cite of “§ I.C.3” to “§ I.B.3”**
  - **Rule I.B.5 – change “born” to “borne”**
  - **Rule I.B.6 – change “§ I.C.1, .2 and .3” to “§ I.B.1, .2 and .3”**
  - **Rule II.D.4 – change “VII K” to “VII.K”**
  - **Rule III.E.5 – change “€” to “(e)”**
  - **Rule V.B.1 – change “§ I.E.8” to “§ I.D.8”**
  - **Rule V.B.4.e – change cite “I.E.8” to “I.D.8”**
  - **Rule V.B.4.e – change cite “I.E.11” to “I.D.11”**

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

–Scott Diamond, Chair

## CABINET REPORT

### Coastal Virginia

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

## Living Waters District

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

## Mission Rivers District

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

## Mountain View District

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

## Northern Virginia District

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

## Shenandoah River District

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

## Valley Ridge District

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

*-Denise P. Bates, Dean*

## SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

<b>Hampton</b>	<b>June 17-20, 2026</b>
----------------	-------------------------

The Committee, along with the Director of Connectional Ministries and the Annual Conference Event Planner, continues to consider other locations for holding Annual Conference across the Commonwealth. For your reference, the following criteria is used in evaluating potential Annual Conference sites:

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

*-Neal E. Wise, Site Selection Committee*

**EQUITABLE COMPENSATION COMMISSION**

The Equitable Compensation Commission continues to provide financial aid to those churches requiring supplementation to strengthen their ministries in the communities in which they are located and to provide minimum salary or salary supplementation for the pastors. Equitable Compensation support in the amount of \$160,437 was provided to 26 charges in 2022.

There were 7 charges receiving salary support in 2021 that did not require salary support in 2022. These are Victoria (Living Waters), Bowling Green (Mission Rivers), Heathsville (Mission Rivers), Mount Pleasant (Shenandoah), Welbourne (Three Notch'd), Epworth Selma (Valley Ridge), and Fieldstone (Valley Ridge). These charges and their superintendents are commended for their success in providing a ministry in the communities they serve that has enabled them to grow spiritually in their stewardship.

District Superintendents and charges setting salaries for 2024 that may require supplementation are advised that the “floor” must come from sources other than the Commission on Equitable Compensation.

The Conference Average Compensation (CAC) for 2024 is \$67,848, which is an increase of 2.3% percent from 2023. The Commission recommends the Minimum Compensation and the Floor Schedule for 2024 be approved as outlined below:

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

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

## Equitable Compensation Financial Report

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

–Rev. Tom Durrance, Chair–Rev. Tom Durrance, Chair

## VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST PENSIONS, INC.

### Section I: Reports

### 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:

VUMPI Plans	Wespath Plans
Health	Ministers Reserve Pension Fund (Pre-82)
Prescription	Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)
Dental	Clergy Retirement Security Program – Defined Benefit (CRSP-DB)
Vision	Clergy Retirement Security Program – Defined Contribution (CRSP-DC)
Supplemental Life	United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)
Voluntary Life	Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)
Long Term Care	
Healthcare Flexible Spending Account	
Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account	

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

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

### Active Clergy Health Plans

Health plans recommended to be made available in 2024 are unchanged from the plans offered in 2023. Health plans available to clergy serving in full time appointments in the Virginia Conference include the following:

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

A fourth PPO health plan with a \$500 deductible, which is made available only to clergy on medical leave with CPP disability benefits and surviving spouses and children of clergy, will continue to be offered in 2024 with no plan design changes.

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

The two dental plan options currently administered by VUMPI will also continue to be offered in 2024 with no plan design changes.

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

### Retired Clergy Health Plans

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ■ Report 3: Pension Plan Structure

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

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

Wespath refers to plans A – C above as defined benefit (“DB”) pension plans. That is, each year an eligible clergy member of the Virginia Conference served/serves and received/receives pension credit, the applicable plan will pay a certain benefit, or “defined” monthly income during retirement. Hence, the term “defined benefit.” Defined benefit plans do not maintain participant account balances since the employer, or in our case, Wespath, has the responsibility to manage the funds in a manner sufficient to pay the monthly defined benefit.

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

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

### ■ Report 4: Welfare Plans Structure

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

The CPP disability benefits are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

phased in with one-year increments, as detailed in the table below:

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Gift Benefit

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

### ■ Report 5: Denominational Average Compensation

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

As reported by Wespeth, the DAC is projected to increase from 2023 to 2024 as follows:



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



## Section II: Recommendations for Annual Conference Approval

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

For 2024, VUMPI recommends total Clergy Benefits Apportionments of \$16,000,000. This represents no change from the 2023 clergy benefits apportionments. The total benefits apportionment amount includes funding for the Active Clergy Health Plan (which includes health care coverage for eligible clergy on medical leave and widowed spouses of active clergy) and the Retired Clergy Health Plan. The apportionment total is allocated between these components as follows:

Clergy Benefits Apportionment Recommendations - 2024	
Active Clergy Health	\$ 10,000,000
Retired Clergy Health	6,000,000
<b>TOTAL CLERGY BENEFIT APPORTIONMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 16,000,000</b>

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

VUMPI makes the Conference-sponsored health plans available to clergy serving in Conference-related extension ministries that do not pay apportionments. For clergy appointed to such extension ministries who are enrolled in the health plans in 2024, VUMPI will bill the Conference Health Plan Fee. The amount billed will be \$988 per month for each enrolled clergyperson, plus their applicable Participant Contributions for active clergy as noted in Recommendation 2: 2024 Participant Contribution Recommendations.

### ■ Recommendation 2: 2024 Health Plan Participant Contribution Recommendations

In administering the Conference-sponsored self-insured health plans, an element of VUMPI’s strategy is to maintain plans that are similar to national average employer-sponsored health plans. In addition, VUMPI recommends participant contributions that are similar, as a percentage of the total health plan cost, to national employer-sponsored plan averages. As overall health care costs tend to increase each year, and as the actual cost trends among each of the health plans can change year-to-year, VUMPI periodically recommends changes in the recommended participant contributions. For 2024, due to an increase in health plan cost trends observed in 2022 and the early months of 2023, VUMPI is recommending a 5% increase in health plan contributions across all medical plan options. Recommended participant contributions for the Conference-sponsored dental and vision plans are unchanged from 2023.

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

**Active Clergy:**

	Medical Plans			Dental Plans	
	PPO Core	PPO Buy-Up	HSA	Core	Major
Clergyperson Only	\$109	\$144	\$84	\$13	\$34
Clergyperson + Spouse	\$320	\$387	\$276	\$49	\$98
Clergyperson + Child(ren)	\$334	\$394	\$282	\$51	\$100
Family	\$349	\$428	\$294	\$60	\$109

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

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

	Medical Plans		Dental Plans	
	PPO Core	PPO Buy-Up	Core	Major
Clergyperson Only	\$668	\$774	\$31	\$60
Clergyperson + Spouse	\$1,487	\$1,659	\$51	\$124
Clergyperson + Child(ren)	\$1,611	\$1,797	\$53	\$126
Family	\$2,075	\$2,315	\$64	\$137

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

	Medical Plans		Dental Plans	
	PPO (\$500 deductible)		Core	Major
Clergyperson Only	\$118		\$13	\$34
Clergyperson + Spouse	\$180		\$49	\$98
Clergyperson + Child(ren)	\$183		\$51	\$100
Family	\$194		\$60	\$109

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

Years of Qualifying Virginia Conference Service	PPO Core		PPO Buy-up	
	Retiree Only	Family	Retiree Only	Family
10-14	\$688	\$1,714	\$797	\$2,096
15-19	\$608	\$1,387	\$744	\$1,697
20-24	\$465	\$1,062	\$569	\$1,298
25-29	\$322	\$735	\$394	\$898
30+	\$179	\$408	\$219	\$500

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

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

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

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

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

**Group Plan Option:** The group plan is a group Medicare Advantage plan. The group plan has a required participant contribution based on full time years of service in the Virginia Conference. The recommended 2024 participant contributions for the group plan coverage option are as follows:

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

**Connector Option:** The Connector option allows qualifying clergy to select any available Medicare Supplement or Medicare Advantage plan, and any Part D prescription drug plan, offered by United Healthcare. Retirees electing coverage through this option receive Retiree Reimbursement Account (“RRA”) funding, which can be used to offset the cost of the selected coverage. VUMPI recommends 2024 monthly RRA funding based on qualifying years of Virginia Conference service as follows:

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

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

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

For participants enrolled in the Anthem health plans, either as active clergy or as a retiree not yet eligible for Medicare, 2024 health plan selections will be made during the open enrollment period in the fall of 2023. If an eligible clergy person does not elect coverage options during the annual open enrollment period, the default enrollment option is the prior year's plan selections (except for Flexible Spending Account or Dependent Care Spending Account contributions), and enrollees will be subject to the associated individual personal contribution rates.

If not selected during the open enrollment period, no Flexible Spending Account contributions can be made during 2024, in accordance with federal laws.

All who are eligible to enroll in a Virginia Conference health plan are strongly encouraged to participate in online open enrollment in the fall of 2023. Details will be distributed through normal annual open enrollment means.

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

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

### **■ Recommendation 3: 2024 Pre-82 Pension Past Service Rate**

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

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

The Virginia Annual Conference establishes the PSR each year. For 2024, VUMPI recommends that the PSR be increased from \$600 to \$611.

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

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

The 2024 CRSP Contribution from the local churches and/or salary-paying-units for each appointed eligible clergy member under episcopal appointment at that location shall be:

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

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

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

The 2024 CPP contribution from the local churches and/or salary-paying-units for each appointed eligible clergy member under episcopal appointment at that location shall be:

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

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

If, for any reason, CPP contributions are more than 30 days in arrears, participation in the CPP is suspended. If contributions are more than six consecutive months in arrears, participation in the CPP is terminated. For terminated participants,

readmission into the CPP requires payment of seven months of contributions and submission of medical statement of good health.

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

## ■ Recommendation 5: 2024 Housing Allowance/Exclusion

### Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired, Disabled, or Former Clergypersons of the Virginia Conference

The Virginia Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as an appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church (the “*Discipline*”), which includes all such payments from Wespath Benefits and Investments, during the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from 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.

– Stacey Anthony, Chair

## COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### RECOMMENDATIONS

On behalf of the Missional Ministries Board:

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

*The following reports, from page 52 to page 76, fall under the umbrella of the Common Table for Church Vitality*

## BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

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

by our United Methodist Bishop's letter: "God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action." In this 2009 letter, UMC bishops raised virtually the same issues, as did Catholic Pope Francis in 2015, namely that the world is awash in violence, environmental destruction, and poverty. So that we may address these three interconnected areas, we have organized three work areas: Peace and Non-Violence, Creation Justice, and Eradicating Poverty/Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries. After the 2020 self-evaluation on our relevance in the conference, we concluded that we were not as relevant as we had been in the past. So, we have intentionally started seeking ways to listening to the needs of the conference. By teaming up with other groups that are involved in the same mission we are so can do a better job in advocating for our basic principles.

### **Conference Legislative Network**

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

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

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

Social Principles undergirding our advocacy efforts.

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

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

The Conference Board promotes the Peace with Justice Sunday Special Offering, one of the six church-wide offerings that The United Methodist General Conference asks of each local church. In 2020, because of the pandemic, we did not do well with our churches giving to this Special Offering, but their giving has allowed the conference to fund key ministries within the conference. We expect the 2022 total will show more churches taking the offering. One half of the offering stays in the annual conference, the other half is used by the General Board.

### **Creation Justice:**

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

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

Blessed are the peacemakers. The Peace & Non-Violence (PNV) work group supports the Virginia Conference and its congregations in learning about and acting to foster peace in our world and address the causes and impacts of vio-

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

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

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

– James Page, Clergy Co-Chair

## **THE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

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

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

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

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

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

– Rev. Stephanie Kimec Parker, Chair. CDT



## THE BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

*—Andrew Ware, President*

## REPORT FROM THE VIRGINIA DELEGATION

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

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

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

### THE PROTOCOL

The **Protocol of Grace and Reconciliation through Separation and Restructuring** was announced in January 2020. That legislation outlined a gracious separation of the United Methodist Church. It was the result of a mediated settlement that key leaders in the United Methodist Church entered into in order to facilitate a gracious end to years of division and dysfunction over issues related to full inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals in the life of the United Methodist Church. It would have accomplished this goal through creating a simple pathway for Annual Conferences, local churches, and clergy to exit the United Methodist Church to a new traditionalist denomination subsidized by the United Methodist Church. Learn more: <https://www.gracethroughseparation.com/legislation>

Following the postponements of the 2020 General Conference and the 2022 launch of the Global Methodist Church, a number of members of the mediated settlement team as well as organizations that had previously been publicly supportive of the Protocol legislation released a statement walking back their support of the legislative package. The statement read, in part: **“Given the growing opposition to the Protocol within the constituencies we represent, the dwindling support among General Conference delegates, and the serious reservations of Central Confer-**

ence leaders, we can no longer in good faith support the Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace through Separation or work towards its adoption at the next General Conference.” <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/protocols-day-has-passed-some-negotiators-say>

## REGIONALIZATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Clergy: Rev. Tom Berlin; Rev. Lindsey Freeman. Rev. Meredith McNabb; Rev. Dr. Rob Vaughn; Rev. Dr. Rhonda Van Dyke; Rev. Mark Ogren; Rev. Grace Han; Rev. Beth Givens; Rev. Jason Stanley; Rev. Kirk Nave; Rev. Jonathan Page*

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

Additionally, **Wespath has endorsed these legislative packages dealing with regionalization.** Wespath notes that regionalization would streamline the work of future General Conferences and reduce costs (potentially millions per quadrennium) by allowing the General Conference not to spend time on matters that only relate to US context/

laws. Additionally, regionalization allows for equitable, contextualized governance subject to the legal, regulatory, and business practice of that region. The *Book of Discipline* distinguishes between connectional issues (for the whole UMC) and adaptable issues (such as clergy pensions as governed by regional/national laws). Currently the United States is the only regional area whose adaptable issues are decided by the full General Conference. Regionalization helps the UMC adapt its governance to meet the specific needs of regions and the denomination as a whole. **In short, Wespath strongly supports the concept of a U.S. regional body to deal with U.S. specific matters.** Learn more: <https://www.wespath.org/assets/1/7/5442.pdf>

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

General Conference Delegates (as of Nov. 2022)

#### Clergy

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

#### Laity

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

## BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

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

As a part of our being transplanted, we have thus far created five teams that will help us till the soil: Operations, Education, Communication, Awards, and Regional Planters. Operations oversees the overall structure and ministry goals

of the Board; Education oversees the development of curriculum and instruction (thus far this team has created two instructional pieces: one to assist local churches to use our garden metaphor and the second to be used at the Lay Servant Academy in the Fall of 2023); Communications oversees our updated webpage, videos, and other tools to assist in the garden; Awards oversees the Harry Denman and One Matter Awards, Regional Planters will work directly with each district ensuring that every church is aware of the board's mission and ministry.

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

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

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

– *Dr. Timothy D. Hazlett Chair*

## CONFERENCE MISSIONAL MINISTRIES BOARD

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

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

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

- ❖ Used car donations
- ❖ United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Leader Training
- ❖ Refugee Responses
- ❖ Mission Encounter - summer & winter on-line offerings
- ❖ Humanitarian Relief & Recovery
- ❖ Early Response Team (ERT) Certification Training
- ❖ Cleaning Kits → 3,752 assembled & delivered
- ❖ Hurricane Ian aftermath
- ❖ Missionary Itinerancy
- ❖ Praying for & Celebrating Ukrainian and Russian churches
- ❖ Shopping for Afghan Allies
- ❖ VAUMC ERT to Florida
- ❖ 2022-2023 Virginia Advance Specials
- ❖ Transitional Home @ Journey Community Center
- ❖ Reconnection of Mission Partners in Mexico

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Advance Special List for 2023-24

### International

#### AFRICA

UMCOR Yambasu Agricultural Initiative - #982188

Mozambique: 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

#### EUROPE

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

### National

United Methodist Volunteers In Mission — Southeastern Jurisdiction - #901875

Disaster Response, United States - #901670

UMCOR Sager Brown - #901515

District Of Columbia: Christ House Medical Services - #381215

Virginia: Society Of St. Andrew - #801600  
 Hinton Rural Life Center - #73132  
 Appalachia Service Project, Inc. (ASP) - #982050  
 Tennessee: Jubilee Project, Inc. - #781350  
 Kentucky: Red Bird Mission, Inc. - #773726  
 Kentucky: Henderson Settlement Frakes - #773365  
 South Dakota: Tree Of Life Ministries - #123615  
 Mississippi United Methodist Choctaw Mission - #761544

## Virginia

### CHILDREN OUTREACH

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

### IMMIGRATION

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

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Northern Virginia: Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church [www.risinghopeumc.org](http://www.risinghopeumc.org) - #5043  
 Coastal Virginia: Wesley Community Service Center <https://sites.google.com/view/wesleyportsmouthva/home> - #5025  
 Three Notch'd: Belmont Community Resource Services [www.bcrsra.org](http://www.bcrsra.org) - #5039  
 Living Waters: Journey Community Center [www.jccenter.org](http://www.jccenter.org) - #5009  
 Valley Ridge: Embrace -- A Center for Community [embracewaynesboro.org](http://embracewaynesboro.org) - #5034  
**DISABILITY**  
 Three Notch'd: Heart Havens [www.hearthavens.org](http://www.hearthavens.org) - #6442  
 Camp Rainbow Connection <https://vaumc.org/crc/> #6443

### PRISON MINISTRY

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

### DISASTER

Virginia Conference Disaster Response and Recovery [www.vaumc.org/disasterresponse](http://www.vaumc.org/disasterresponse) - #5037  
 Virginia UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers In Mission) - #5038  
 Funding local church's UMVIM team trips [www.vaumc.org/umvim](http://www.vaumc.org/umvim)

### OVERSEAS MISSION

Three Notch'd: Highland Support Project [www.highlandsupportproject.org](http://www.highlandsupportproject.org) - #5007  
 Three Notch'd: Retired Clergy Housing Corporation <https://vaumc.org/retired-clergy-housing/> - #5030

## New Virginia United Methodist Advance Specials

**Sherbourne UMC Food Pantry Ministry** - Three Notch'd District - Food collection and distribution  
**Central Virginia Mission Hub** - Three Notch'd District - UMCOR Kit collection site. <https://www.cvmhub.org/>  
**Equipment for Caring** - Shenandoah River District - Collection site for medical supplies and relief kits  
[www.ShenandoahRiverdistrict.org/ministries](http://www.ShenandoahRiverdistrict.org/ministries)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*—John Meeuwissen, Chair*

## PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

### Heart Havens

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

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

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

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

We are blessed with the support of congregations and groups throughout the Conference. With your vital support, Heart Havens continues to empower people with a developmental disability by doing more than just providing the

basics but also enabling them to live vibrant, independent lives. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we invite you as the church to continue to advocate for Heart Havens and support people with a developmental disability.

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

–Jennifer Boyden, Chief Executive Officer  
& Rebecca Huff, Chief Operations Officer

## Pinnacle Living

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

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

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

- ❖ This winter, three of our communities – Cedarfield, Hermitage Richmond, and Hermitage Roanoke – completed the reaccreditation process through CARF International. WindsorMeade successfully completed its first CARF accreditation in March of 2022. Accreditation is an ongoing process signaling to the public that a service provider is committed to continuously improving services, encouraging feedback, and serving the community. Today there are only 98 Life Plan Communities across the nation that are CARF accredited. Fifteen of the 98 are in Virginia; four of those are Pinnacle Living communities.
- ❖ Our Richmond communities – Cedarfield and Hermitage Richmond – along with the Pinnacle Living office were recognized as one of the Top Workplaces in the large size company category in the Metro Richmond Region for the sixth consecutive year. The Richmond area program is sponsored by the *Richmond Times Dispatch*.
- ❖ WindsorMeade participated for the first time in the *Hampton Roads Inside Business* 2022 Top Workplaces initiative and was named a top workplace in the midsize company category.
- ❖ Pinnacle Living is one of five partners sponsoring the Dreaming Home project with LeadingAge Virginia. Brandermill Woods, LifeSpire, Beth Sholom and Westminster Canterbury Richmond are also participating in this work. The vision of the Dreaming Home project is to help elders across multiple demographics in greater Richmond to “dream home.” This work will help us better understand the desires and values for home as we age, recognizing options shared may include lifestyle choices very different from the Life Plan Community models we currently offer. Although the initial efforts are focused in the greater Richmond area, the overarching objective of the project is to help all senior living providers create and maintain cultures of inclusion and align services and offerings with the desires and values for home of diverse elders.
- ❖ Residents, community volunteers, and team members in partnership with 122 local organizations continued to do amazing work which impacted the broader community. From connections with local workforce development programs to collecting food for area food banks and pantries, from hosting benefits in support of Ukrainian refugees to packing UMCOR kits, our residents and team members positively touched citizens of all ages and backgrounds in their localities.
- ❖ Efforts continue to enhance support for those living with Alzheimer’s and other dementias through partnership with Dementia Friendly Community efforts, Dementia Friends Virginia, and the Alzheimer’s Association.

We offer our deepest appreciation to all the local churches that included the Samaritan Program in your second mile giving. This safety net is a key part of our benevolent mission. The following *Samaritan Award Churches* were recog-



nized for the highest level of giving among congregations in the Virginia Annual Conference during FY2022.

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

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

– Christopher P. Henderson, President and CEO

– Martha E. Stokes, Director of Church and Community Relations

– Charles W. Wickham, Director of Donor Development

## 2023 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PINNACLE LIVING

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

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

## UMFS - United Methodist Family Services of Virginia

In 2022, UMFS continued to live out our mission as unwavering champions for high-risk children and families, collaborating with communities to help them reach their full potential. We serve children in foster care and children struggling with mental health and behavioral challenges through foster and adoption programs, specialized education schools, and residential mental health treatment programs. In 2022 we served 1,970 children and teens. We strive to support the entire family, helping us touch the lives of 8,466 high-risk children and family members in 108 communities across Virginia.

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

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

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

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

– Nancy Toscano, *President and CEO*

## Wesley Housing

Wesley Housing's (WH) vision is that everyone in the greater Washington, DC region has a safe, quality, affordable home, serving as a foundation to thrive, and has a place of value in the community. This guides our mission of building up the lives of our most vulnerable community members by creating and operating healthy, inclusive, stable, affordable housing communities and providing supportive resident services. For nearly five decades, we have served over 25,000 residents in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. We currently manage 29 properties serving 3,200+ residents in Alexandria, Arlington, Manassas, Falls Church, Fairfax County, Winchester, and the District. We also manage 13 Community Resource/Support Service Centers that offer a full range of crucially needed programs and services to support children, adults, seniors, those with chronic disease, and those with disabilities to regain their dignity and renew their lives.

### Real Estate Development

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

#### *New Construction:*

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

#### *Renovation:*

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

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

- ❖ •WH acquired **Parc Square Apartments** (66 units, Alexandria, VA). After first addressing life safety issues to improve habitability, Wesley plans to redevelop the property, as well as properties owned by Community Lodgings.
- ❖ The Alexandria City Council voted in favor of the Planning Commission's proposal to rezone three parcels of land to develop **ParcView II** (200 units, Alexandria, VA), WH's proposed redevelopment of its existing ParcView Apartments. The community engagement process continues.
- ❖ The Falls Church City Council approved WH to operate five quadplexes in **Virginia Village** (20 units, Falls Church) with a long-term goal of redeveloping the community into permanent affordable housing.
- ❖ WH acquired **Holmead Apartments** (100 units in Washington, DC [Ward 1]), which will be converted into affordable, accessible units for those earning between 30-80% AMI.

- ❖ Fairfax County authorized a \$5.6M commitment of Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority Funds for the **Wesley-Lamb Center Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Community**. In addition, the Fairfax City Council approved a \$700K investment from the City of Fairfax Housing Trust Fund. The funding commitments follow Fairfax City Council unanimously approving a Special Use Permit to redevelop the Hy-Way Motel into a five-story 54-unit residential/mixed-use community.
- ❖ WH, in partnership with **First Christian Church of Falls Church**, secured zoning entitlements from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to construct 95 affordable units of independent senior living on the land immediately adjacent to the Church (6165 Leesburg Pike).
- ❖ **1 Hawaii** (70 units, Washington, DC [Ward 5]) is expected to close and begin redevelopment in Spring 2023.
- ❖ Renovations continue on **The Hampshire** (56 units, Washington, DC) which is expected to complete in Spring 2023.

#### Resident Services

- ❖ **Housing Stability Initiative:** With some of the most cost-burdened renters in the country living in our area, our resident services team provided 3,100 of them with award-winning supportive services. In 2022, we received 1,548 eviction prevention referrals due to households' non-payment of rent (between 150 to 250 households monthly, many duplicated each month). Through the work of our Resident Services Coordinators, 100% found payment solutions totaling more than \$1M and maintained housing. Two hundred fifteen (215) residents participated in workforce development activities (job skills classes, one-on-one coaching) and attained new job skills. Sixty-four (64) residents secured new or more gainful employment, while others continue to work on their career plans. 780 families received material assistance, including food items and holiday gifts, and nearly 400 residents participated in health and wellness offerings.

#### OPERATIONS and Administrative

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

Resolutions or Recommendations: None

*–Kamilah McAfee, President/CEO*

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

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

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

In the last year, we have placed more responsibility on each Board member as a liaison to a respective campus

ministry setting so that their local boards have a point of connection that can attend meetings and offer various means of support throughout the year.

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

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

Our Board looks forward to partnering in ministry with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, and we are excited that she made it a priority to meet with our campus ministers and chaplains in the spring to hear about their ideas and vision for the Annual Conference. We remain grateful for the continued support of Dwayne Stinson and Becky Tate, who are deeply committed to ensuring the well-being of our campus ministers. In the coming year, our Board challenges each local church to connect with your district's campus minister(s) to learn how to support the mission in these spaces. Your congregation may feel led to offer financial support, provide a meal for students, or to explore other innovative ideas. I encourage you to read about the incredible ministry taking place beyond the local church as we celebrate the gifts of our campus and collegiate ministries.

– Ryan LaRock, Board Chair

## WESLEY FOUNDATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

– Rev. Dr. Joy Denise Carrington, Director

## **Wesley Foundation at Old Dominion University**

I am excited to say this year, we launched WesleyODU. After a year of hard work preparing the space, planning events, and praying for the Holy Spirit to be at work in this new ministry, we opened the doors to WesleyODU. Our goal and vision are to create a ministry at ODU where students, faculty, and staff are invited to explore faith together and where each person is welcomed and invited to be authentically themselves. In our first semester, we started small groups, devotions, service activities, and fellowship opportunities. Events like baking apple pies to take home for Thanksgiving, pumpkin carving, paint nights, and bonfire chats are just a few of the many events offered over the past year. It has been an incredible blessing that from these events, five students went from being participants into leadership. As I prepared this report, I invited some of the students to share why they chose Wesley. Here is what they had to say: “Wesley is my favorite place to go because it is always a welcoming environment. I love that I can explore my faith and ask questions without judgment.” Sarah Schrum (Jr.) “I keep coming to Wesley because I feel included and cared for whenever I walk through the door. We have fun events like carving pumpkins and apple pie baking but also faith building nights like small group and following a study that keeps me involved and excited to come back.” Hannah Brewer (Fr.) “I came to Wesley because I was looking for a home away from home and had been searching for a church family. I grew up in the United Methodist Church and knew that was something I wanted to find during my time on campus. It also gave me leadership experience and helped me make new friends.” Lucy Jarvis (Jr.) It is an incredible joy to serve with these students and to be in ministry on the campus of ODU. To be a place where students, faculty, and staff can find a loving community, where they can grow in their faith, and where they can know they are loved. We are grateful for the many ways the Virginia Annual Conference has supported and continues to support WesleyODU. We are so excited about what this next year will bring and how God will be at work in us.

–Joshua McCauley, Campus Minister

## **The Wesley Foundation at UVA**

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

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

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

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

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

and share life in our building.

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

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

– *Devon Earle, Campus Minister & Director*

## **Wesley Foundation at Virginia Commonwealth University | PACE**

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

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

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

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

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

–*Katherine Gooch, Campus Minister*

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

This year F.L.O.W. has participated in several different events. As we embarked upon this year, we made a conscious and ecumenical effort to be inclusive to everyone that we encountered on campus. This year one of our biggest projects was to make sure our students felt comfortable at Virginia State University regardless of religion, race, or sexuality. So during this year we participated with our Muslim population by making sure that their hours of prayer throughout the day were honored. So, we opened up our chapel, and the student leaders along with myself made sure during those times that they were not disturbed or distracted. Furthermore, during the week we would sit down and all have Bible

Study together and great dialogue with students who were not just Muslims, but it opened the door for those who were agnostic, Jewish, or identified in other religious practices. In our time of sharing, we learned how vital it has been for us to weave our faith stories together and how much they are parallel. It was an enthusiastic time for us because we wanted to make sure that everyone knew who campus ministry was, and how we could be better in serving the community at Virginia State University. During this time we also took time out to share different meals throughout the week and give space for persons who just wanted to belong. Also, we participate in worship each Sunday together. Although Ettrick United Methodist closed its doors, we decided that the ministry did not stop, and we gather on in Foster Hall every Sunday at 12 noon, for worship. Students come in from all religious backgrounds and we worship and discuss various topics.

F.L.O.W. stands for Fellowship, Love, Outreach, and Worship. We wanted to be more than people who worshipped on a Sunday. We decided that it mattered how we connected to others in community at VSU and how we connected with the outside community. Some of the ways we connected outside is every 3rd Saturday we participate in the Ettrick Food Bank, where we feed over 4,000 families in conjunction with Feed More, Food Lion, Walmart and Publix. We have prayer, and breakfast, and students from F.L.O.W. come and pack boxes for families who are in need. We also took time out during the week to partner with Good Shepherd Baptist Church where we go every 3rd Wednesday and pack food boxes for 300 families. We added another outreach effort where we partnered with Kings Uplifting Kings, and we gave away clothing to homeless men in Petersburg and Richmond.

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

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

–Jasmyn C. Graham, Campus Minister

## The Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech

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

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

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

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

Do we need campus ministry in our AC? If we are being real about keeping young adults in the Church, then campus ministry is vital in this endeavor! We already see our youth leave for college or the workplace and never return to church. At Wesley our vision, “to be an affirming, grace-filled community that develops and sends our disciples rooted in faith,” directly relates to connecting our graduates to local church ministry in the UMC. Campus Ministry is, in our

“Connection,” the connecting point from youth group to local churches during the young adult years. Our failure to connect our youth to our UNITED METHODIST campus ministries (emphasis is important) for a long time and it shows in the lack of young leaders in our churches. If we do this well, then, I believe, we will see our Connection working the way it is intended.

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

Do we need to have buildings for campus ministry? Our campus ministry building (which sits on the very edge of campus – a dorm is across the street) has over 100 students (some repeats) coming in and out of our building every day! Our building has students who come to eat together, study, sleep, have small groups, participate in events, worship weekly, pray together, get pastoral care, be in mission with the community (food pantry), put on youth retreats for our District, and so much more. It is used ALL DAY EVERYDAY for numerous ministry opportunities! So, yes, having a building is important for students to have a place to do ministry and be in community.

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

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

– Bret Gresham, Campus Minister

## The Wesley Foundation at William & Mary

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

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

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

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

But don’t take my word for it; listen to what one student, new to Wesley, has to say: “I was struck by the warm, welcoming, unconditionally accepting atmosphere of the group. I was impressed by how meetings managed to blend



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." Thanks so much for continuing to empower our students to transform the campus and the community!

—Max W. Blalock, Campus Minister

## Rise U/Rise United Methodist Faith Community

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

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

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

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

On a personal note, working in Campus Ministry for the past 2.5 years has helped me more fully understand my calling to full-time ordained ministry. I will be leaving RISE this summer to fully live into this call and prepare to attend Seminary full time at Wesley Theological Seminary. I would not have fully understood this calling if it weren't for the

ability to work in Campus Ministry. I am indescribably grateful for the ongoing support of the Annual Conference (so is the rest of RISE). We celebrate the renewed energy, hope, and leadership that we have experienced in the past year, and we trust that the Holy Spirit will guide and encourage us on this journey in this next year.

*–Abby Butler-Cefalo, Campus Outreach Coordinator*

## **ECUMENICAL CAMPUS MINISTRIES**

### **ARISE at George Mason University**

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

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

*–Drew Ensz, Ministry Director*

## **Campus Christian Community at the University of Mary Washington**

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

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

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

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

churches and also for the congregants to get to spend time getting to know the college students!

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

– Elizabeth J. Snader, Campus Minister

## Community College Ministries of Southwest Virginia

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

–Steve Darr, Campus Minister

## Wesley-Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State University

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

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

us for our weekly Bible Study and dinner held each Wednesday.

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

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

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

*—Joy Denise Carrington*

## BOARD OF LAITY

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

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

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

As our denominational and conference UMC Scouting Leadership Teams continue to address how best to structure The UMC's relationship with scouting over the long term, it is important to share some of the positive impacts of Scouting Ministries over the last year. Scouting Coordinators and leaders from The UMC were asked by the Philmont

Scout Ranch BSA (Boy Scouts of America) near Cimarron, New Mexico, to revitalize the outdoor chapels at the base location. Bill Chaffin, Conference Director of Scouting, was honored to assemble and lead that effort. Eighteen Scouters, three from Virginia, traveled to Philmont in September to update the two outdoor Protestant chapels. The next BSA National Jamboree will be held July 19-28 at Bechtel Summit near Beckley, West Virginia. This site was home to the last National Jamboree and the last World Jamboree (WSJ24). The UMC, including the Virginia Conference, will once again have a strong presence there. This year, the Girl Scouts of the USA is celebrating its 100th anniversary relationship with The UMC. It was 1913 when the second Girl Scout troop was formed at Hyde Park Methodist Church in Tampa, Florida. Today United Methodist churches across the United States partner with Girl Scouts to reach out to communities and young women. The UMC Scouting community continues to work at building and renewing relationships between our youth and the churches with which we have partnered. The 12th Point of the Scout Law is “A Scout is reverent.” The Girl Scout Promise states “I will try to serve God and my country.” The fundamental relationship to God remains steadfast.

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

– *Martha E. Stokes, Conference Lay Leader*

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

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

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

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

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

–*Nancy Walsh, President*

## COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

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

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

Annually, we provide grants for local churches to help with church programs and accessibilities to their buildings and we share this information on the VA Conference website and at Annual Conference at our table in the exhibit room. This year we approved multiple Accessibility grants for local churches to assist with improving their facility accessibility and

related church programs.

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

– Claire B. Miller, Chair

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our constituent ministries have made significant contributions this year:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## CAMP RAINBOW CONNECTION

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

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

## EMBRACE—A CENTER FOR COMMUNITY

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

### 2022 RESULTS

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

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

- ❖ 1,750 books distributed
- ❖ 1,805 family visits to glean food from the gardens
- ❖ 2,000 gallons of water saved through rain-capture
- ❖ 2,500+ hours of volunteer labor contributed
- ❖ 3,600+ pounds of produce shared
- ❖ 6,929 compassionate interactions with neighbors
- ❖ \$10,000 given in financial assistance
- ❖ 10,112 items of clothing gifted

## AMAZING THINGS HAPPEN AT GOD’S HOUSE

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

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

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

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

## Mission Outpost, Mission Laboratory & Incubator

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

—Jenelle Watson, Director

## GRACEINSIDE

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



services, taught the Bible, disciplined believers in the “Inside Church”, baptized, served Holy Communion, provided pastoral and crisis care/counseling, recruited/trained/coordinated religious volunteers, etc.

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

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

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

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

*– J. Randy Myers, President*

## **SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW**

Over the last 44 years, the Virginia Conference has been an important partner in the work of the Society of St. Andrew. In that time, you’ve helped SoSA grow from a home-based intentional Christian community to a nation-wide gleaning and food recovery network that has engaged more than a half million volunteers in simple hands-on service to feed hungry neighbors. Thank you for being part of this ministry from its inception, for sharing with us a vision for a world without hunger, in which faith and stewardship meet God’s abundance—and good food is shared with people in greatest need every day.

In 2022, 299 Virginia congregations provided financial support to the Society of St. Andrew. 24 congregations and more than 1,450 Virginia United Methodists took part in “crop drops” or field gleaning.

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

Nationwide, 20.7 million pounds of food (82.8 million servings) reached millions of hungry Americans in 2022 through the work of the Society of St. Andrew, through crops donated by more than 854 farmers/producers and through the gleaning and volunteer efforts of 17,550+ individuals. The Board of Directors is actively working to build the capacity in both funding and partnerships with farmers and feeding agencies to expand SoSA's work into new areas over the next few years. United Methodist congregations across the United States will be integral to SoSA's growth, and the Virginia Conference has paved the way for relationships that now extend across the continent.

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

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

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

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

**Andrew Dillon**

**Lillie Wiggins**

**Jeff Holland**

– Lynette Johnson, *Executive Director*



## **THE CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS TEAM**

Steven J. Summers, *Director of Connectional Ministries*

Martha E. Stokes, *Conference Lay Leader*

### **Monitors:**

Vacant, *Commission on Disabilities*

Lauren Wright and Jenny Day, *COSROW*

Lester Kurtz and Eduardo Carrillo, *CEMCA*

### **District Representatives:**

Coastal Virginia – Vacant

Living Waters – Kenneth Thrasher

Mission Rivers – Angie Hoen

Mountain View – Vacant

Northern Virginia – Ki Lee

Shenandoah River – Jill Ryan

Three Notch'd – Scotty Doyle

Valley Ridge – Jonathan Greer

## **Nominations**

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

#### Re-Elect

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

#### Nominated

Jaydee Hanson, *Clergy*

### **Church Development Team**

#### Re-Elect

Amanda Garber, *Clergy*

### **Board of Discipleship**

#### Re-Elect

Kevin Mooers, *Lay*

#### Nominated

John Conway, *Clergy*

### **Older Adult Council**

#### Re-Elect

Suzanne Spencer, *Lay*

### **Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries**

#### Re-Elect

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

### **Missional Ministries Board**

#### Re-Elect

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

#### Nominated

Dick Arnold, *Lay*

### **Conference Board of Communications**

#### Re-Elect

Doug Paysour, *Clergy*

#### Nominated

Claire Miller, *Clergy*

**Commission on Disabilities**

Re-Elect

Young Sung Ryu, *Clergy*

Gary Ayres, *Lay*

Martha Daggy, *Lay*

**Commission on Equitable Compensation**

Re-Elect

Brad Philips, *Clergy*

Paula Totten, *Lay*

**Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy**

Re-Elect

Steve Snodgrass, *Clergy*

James Klagge, *Lay*

Josefa Wall, *Lay*

**Council on Finance and Administration**

Re-Elect

Elizabeth Foss, *Clergy*

Cindy Martin, *Lay*

Nominated

Mark Ogren, *Clergy*

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

Re-Elect

Lauren Wright, *Clergy*

Deb Washer, *Clergy*

**Conference Trustees**

Re-Elect

Jim O'Quinn, *Clergy*

Karen Elmore, *Lay*

**Society of St. Andrew**

Nominated

Andrew Dillon

Lillie Wiggins

Jeff Holland

**BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY**

Like churches coming out of the pandemic, the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) is envisioning what our credentialing process should look like in our rapidly changing world. In July of 2022, members of VA BOM participated in a Mastermind Cohort with 3 other Conference's to evaluate current interview processes and requirements while dreaming of new ways to meet the ministerial needs of the local church, our communities, and the conference. We also explored ways to grow the cultural competency of the BOM, dcom's and the Annual Conference. At our 3 full board meetings, BOM members brainstormed new structures and processes for the 8 District Committees of Ordained Ministry, what

tracks are needed for credentialing across callings of ministry in the local church and beyond, as well as developed a Day of Discernment Retreat for approved candidates in the provisional and associate membership process. We look forward to fleshing out these dreams and new processes for the 2024 – 2028 quadrennium.

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

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

– Tammy L. Estep, Chair

## COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Committee on Episcopacy (COE) is responsible for the review and evaluation of the resident bishop as required by the *Book of Discipline*. A process for this review has been created and is used by all Conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ). The Virginia Conference COE will meet with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson at least two or three times a year to engage in conversation around this process and discuss matters present in the Virginia Annual Conference and larger connection. The COE communicates the results and insights of this review with the SEJ COE for use in their assignment process.

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

– Warren R. Harper, Chair

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

The Board continues to address and process requests for disaffiliation under Paragraph 2553 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* as amended in 2019. In addition to the two Special Annual Conferences that have been held to vote on these disaffiliations, we continue to process churches for the next two Special Annual Conference which will be held on May 6, 2023 and October 7, 2023. Paragraph 2553 sunsets as of 12/31/23 and the Board will await new legislation from the General Conference when it meets in 2024.

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

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

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

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

– Kathy Lutman, President

## UNITED METHODIST-RELATED SCHOOLS

### Ferrum College

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lisa Bowling was named vice president of Institutional Advancement. Former Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Jason Powell has been promoted to assistant vice president for Academic Affairs. In addition, Dr. Martha Haley-Bowl-

ing has been promoted to dean of Graduate and Professional studies, and Dr. Tim Daniels has been promoted to dean of Undergraduate Studies.

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

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

–*Mirta M. Martin, Ph.D., President.*

## Randolph-Macon Academy

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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

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

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

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

*Power of Rise:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDI4puLJJu8>

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

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

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

God bless you and God bless America.

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

## Randolph-Macon College

Founded in 1830, Randolph-Macon College is a co-educational, nationally ranked liberal arts college located in Ashland, Virginia. The College achieves its mission of "developing the minds and character of each student" by balancing rigorous academics with individualized attention between our exceptional faculty and students. The school maintains a student-faculty ratio of just over 10 to 1 and average class size of 16 students. RMC has an outstanding reputation for academics, national and international internships, study abroad programs and undergraduate research opportunities.

The College is now in our 193rd year, and we welcomed a class of 421 freshmen this year. RMC experienced significant growth in our student body in recent years and is more diverse than at any point in our history. The 2022-23 academic year opened with 1491 students from 26 states (including the District of Columbia) and 25 other countries. Of these students, 55% are female and 45% are male.

R-MC prides itself on an exceptional sense of responsibility for student success and offers a Four-Year Degree Guar-

antee, which pledges in writing that freshmen who meet all necessary requirements will graduate within four academic years. If not, Randolph-Macon will waive tuition costs for R-MC courses needed to complete the degree.

Randolph-Macon celebrates our strong alumni giving record. This year, we were ranked 19th in the nation for the percentage of our alumni who make a gift of any size to the College. The generosity of our alumni has allowed us to continue improving and expanding the campus. This winter, we opened Duke Hall, our 18th significant new building or renovation in 15 years. This magnificent 3-story building is home to our Master in Physician Assistant Studies program, which is the College's first graduate program. We welcomed our first cohort of 24 students in January in the new space. Duke Hall is also the location of three large classrooms, as well as new locker rooms, offices and meeting spaces for our successful athletics teams.

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

R-MC has been educating Christian clergy throughout its history. We currently have 267 alumni active in or retired from full time Christian ministry. Two-thirds of these clergy alumni are United Methodist. We are proud of our pre-ministerial program that includes our Bailey Scholars. Our A. Purnell Bailey Pre-Ministerial Scholarship Program was established in 2004 to support students who express an interest in ordained ministry in the Christian tradition. Students awarded this scholarship receive half-tuition for the first two years and full tuition for the junior and senior years. The program includes weekly mentoring, two internships in ministry settings, and support selecting and applying to theology school. The Bailey Scholars are joined by a cohort of other students also pursuing a vocation in ministry.

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

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

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

– Robert Lindgren, President

## RETIRED CLERGY HOUSING CORPORATION

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

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

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

Even though the rent residents pay is the primary source of income, it does not cover the total cost of this ministry. Donations to the Covenant of Gratitude help offset basic operations and unexpected repairs. I invite you to support retired clergy and their families who have given a significant part of their lives to the local churches and now reside in RCHC housing. The Covenant of Gratitude requests a commitment of a \$1 minimum per commissioned Provisional El-



der and Deacon at this Annual Conference session. With the ever-increasing cost of providing support, please consider a gift to \$5 or even \$10 per commissioned Provisional Elder and Deacon at this Annual Conference. Your ongoing support is important to meeting the needs of those we serve.

I also invite you to make RCHC a part of your estate planning. If you are interested in learning more about how to support this mission, please contact Rev. Charles Wickham at 804 474 8724 and he will be happy to meet with you.

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

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

## PREACHERS’ RELIEF SOCIETY

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

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

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

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

–Robert F. Cofield Jr., President

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church continues to be characterized by strong foundations and committees whose individual reports are included below. Postponed by a hurricane, the Fall Meeting of the Trustees occurred on November 5 in Williams-burg, where David Rochford introduced us to Joseph Pilmore. The Spring meeting took place on February 25 at the United Methodist Center in Glen Allen, where a historic bench was dedicated in memory of Cathy Morgan. For the program, Ben Campbell spoke on the scourge of slavery in Antebellum Richmond. The 2023 Fall Meeting of the Trustees is scheduled for October 7.

– Mike Browder, President

## Virginia United Methodist HERITAGE

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

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

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

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

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

—Myra Lindsey, Editor

## Archives Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Nina Frederick, Chair

## History Update Committee

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

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

–Jim Athearn, Chair

## The Old Brunswick Foundation

- 1) Tobcf continued the implementation of the \$209,605 eshpf grant received in 2021 from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (vdhr) in partnership with the National Park Services (NPS) to:
  - a) Work through three revisions of a **proposal from architectural firm Glave &Holmes** and signed the final proposal on March 6, 2023. As a result of this proposal Glave & Holmes will write the Request for Proposal (RFP) to procure a general contractor for the stabilization work needed on the foundation and chimneys of the Dromgoole house, provide engineering calculations and specifications as well as contract and construction administration services. TOBCF has approved spending \$30,872 from its treasury funds (outside of the grant funds) for these services.
  - b) As recommended by Glave &Holmes, TOBCF developed and provided them with a **detailed description of the drainage system that had been installed around the Dromgoole house**. Glave and Holmes added this information as an addendum to the previously submitted version of the Dromgoole Historic Structure Report. The revised version of this report is now posted as a research and construction reference on TOBCF's webpages at:  
<https://doc.vaumc.org/HistoricalSociety/DromgooleHsHSR2023Mar13.pdf>
  - c) VDHR **secured a contract** under this grant **to** have the consulting firm, Environmental Research Group, (ERG) **complete a National Register of Historic Place nomination to have our Randolph Macon College/Boydton Institute site designated as a Historic District**. TOBCF participated in the start-up meeting, three days of on-site fieldwork and met with ERG to provide them with pertinent historical information about the site.
  - d) While requests made by the VDHR to NPS to increase the grant award amounts due to Covid supply chain issues were denied, the period of performance was extended to March 2024.
- 2) TOBCF continued the work on the foundation of the Helensha Cottage located on the Randolph Macon College/Boydton Institute site. Having raised the building off its original foundation, poured new concrete footings, built a new cinder block foundation and piers and replaced some deteriorated under-beams, the house was lowered back onto its new foundation which was then veneered in brick that had been saved for that purpose from another local historic construction. To repair the chimneys, one cube of additional matching custom-made brick was located, purchased and transported from Salisbury, NC at a cost of about \$1500. Because a special lime mortar must be used when working with old brick, repairs to the chimney have been delayed until after the temperature remains above 40 degrees.
- 3) TOBCF commissioned the painting of a conceptual portrait of Edward Dromgoole Sr. The portrait was painted and framed for \$700. Arrangements have been made to temporarily house and display the portrait at St. Paul's College Museum with long-range plans to hang it in the Dromgoole House when the preservation of that building is completed.
- 4) TOBCF's outreach, publicity and education activities included:
  - a) Setting up a display about our historical sites at the 2022 Virginia Annual Conference
  - b) Touring and meeting with the leadership at the Wake Forest Museum in Wake Forest NC to get pointers on management of historical site from a museum that has a similar history as our Randolph Macon College/Boydton Institute site
  - c) Board Member, Dr. Art Thomas. researching and giving a presentation about the Slaves of Edward Dromgoole at the meeting of the William Waters Foundation
  - d) Submitting two articles for publication in the Fall 2022 issue of the *Heritage* bulletin

e) Writing and distributing TOBCF's 2022 Annual e-Newsletter now posted on our webpages at:

<https://doc.vaumc.org/HistoricalSociety/2022Newsletter.pdf>

5) TOBCF's Future Directions and Plans

a) Vice President Marc Thompson along with other committed Board Members are developing a Strategic 5 year Plan for all the activities and sites of the OBCF.

–James (Jim) Mott, President

## The William Watters Foundation

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

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

The foundation approved its board of directors at the annual meeting, including one new board member: William Stead. The Virginia Conference Historical Society confirmed the directors at its fall 2022 meeting. The foundation elected officers at the November 7 board meeting, held via Zoom.

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

–Myra P. Lindsey, President

## The Old Stone Church Foundation

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

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

–Ralph Carver, Vice President for Bill Harrison

## REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE STATISTICIAN

## Report of the Conference Statistician 2022

	Total Professing Members at Beginning of Year	Received and Restored on Profession of Christian Faith	Net Transferred in (out) from other United Methodist Churches	Net Transferred in (out) from non-United Methodist Churches	Removed by Charge Conference action and prior year corrections	Withdrawn from Professing Membership	Removed by death	Total Professing Members at End of Year	Net Change in Membership	Percent Change	Average attendance at all weekly worship services	Number of Persons Baptized
Coastal Virginia	34,122	221	20	16	108	167	368	33,736	-386	-1.1%	12,620	150
Living Waters	27,326	141	24	42	537	191	363	26,442	-884	-3.2%	9,251	82
Mission Rivers	41,472	269	-37	17	662	118	420	40,521	-951	-2.3%	11,733	157
Mountain View	24,120	135	1	21	315	927	355	22,680	-1,440	-6.0%	10,298	72
Northern Virginia	62,509	528	-101	10	402	79	321	62,144	-365	-0.6%	19,546	312
Shenandoah River	33,239	141	27	-18	730	329	401	31,929	-1,310	-3.9%	10,048	114
Three Notch'd	50,032	367	-307	-17	353	53	461	49,208	-824	-1.6%	12,246	193
Valley Ridge	30,305	148	-310	-25	278	287	397	29,156	-1,149	-3.8%	9,497	77
Totals for 2022	303,125	1,950	-683	46	3,385	2,151	3,086	295,816	-7,309	-2.4%	95,239	1,157

## REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TREASURER

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

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

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

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

**Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church**  
**Statement of Changes in Conference Reserves**  
**For the Year Ending December 31, 2022**

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



VIII. REPORTS OF CONFERENCE BOARDS AND AGENCIES

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

12/31/2022

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

**402 - Conference Services**

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

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

12/31/2022

Project Name	Apportionment Receipts	Revenues from other sources	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Revenues Over (Under)		Closeout to Reserves	Ending Balance
					Expenses	Beginning Balance		
<b>CFA</b>								
Property & Equipment Fund	-	-	-	160,957.44	(160,957.44)	3,932,005.95	-	3,771,048.51
United Methodist Center	152,307.62	85,732.50	238,040.12	262,991.27	(24,951.15)	34,521.84	-	9,570.69
Long Term Building Maintenance Fund	-	-	-	-	-	200,000.00	-	200,000.00
Legal Expenses	174,056.95	-	174,056.95	572,822.58	(398,765.63)	-	398,765.63	-
Survivor Trust Fund commitment	-	988,456.00	988,456.00	-	988,456.00	(20,000.00)	-	968,456.00
Race & Race Relations	-	-	-	4,409.00	(4,409.00)	8,682.25	-	4,273.25
Funds Held for Future Benefits	-	542,931.25	542,931.25	-	542,931.25	172,415.00	-	715,346.25
Employee Moving Fund	-	-	-	-	-	454.77	-	454.77
Archives	17,408.84	18,000.00	35,408.84	19,617.15	15,791.69	9,592.83	-	25,384.52
Sustentation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	15,000.00	-	15,000.00
District Support Fund	-	782,383.41	782,383.41	80,906.63	701,476.78	178,523.22	-	880,000.00
CFA Contingency	-	(718,445.47)	(718,445.47)	53,500.00	(771,945.47)	771,945.47	-	-
United Merriment Committee	-	518.01	518.01	232.53	285.48	(285.48)	-	-
	<b>343,773.41</b>	<b>1,699,575.70</b>	<b>2,043,349.11</b>	<b>1,155,436.60</b>	<b>887,912.51</b>	<b>5,302,855.85</b>	<b>398,765.63</b>	<b>6,589,533.99</b>
<b>Common Table</b>								
Advocate legacy funds	-	-	-	-	-	58,644.85	-	58,644.85
Wesley Fdtn Capital Improvements	-	(1,072.39)	(1,072.39)	8,574.00	(9,646.39)	9,646.39	-	-
Wesley Fdtn Maintenance Fund	74,326.80	1,072.39	75,399.19	132,104.75	(56,705.56)	81,157.18	-	24,451.62
Wesley Foundation Proceeds	-	-	-	-	-	104,444.99	-	104,444.99
All God's Children Camp	-	48,463.14	48,463.14	47,854.17	608.97	29,697.13	-	30,306.10
Safe Sanctuaries Training	-	-	-	-	-	2,051.75	-	2,051.75
CommonTable Youth Contingency	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lay Servant Ministries	-	6,984.13	6,984.13	2,975.32	4,008.81	11,262.77	-	15,271.58
Lay Servant Ministry Events	-	225.00	225.00	-	225.00	-	-	225.00
Camp Rainbow	-	54,101.10	54,101.10	43,942.64	10,158.46	27,565.31	-	37,723.77
Commission on Disabilities	-	262.00	262.00	3,032.54	(2,770.54)	7,434.75	-	4,664.21
Voices of Youth	-	-	-	-	-	1,549.94	-	1,549.94
Mental Health Conference	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UMVIM	-	92.72	92.72	740.56	(647.84)	19,691.45	-	19,043.61
Caretakers of God's Creation	-	1,294.00	1,294.00	-	1,294.00	5,919.56	-	7,213.56
Five Talent Academy - Events	-	-	-	-	-	3,848.80	-	3,848.80
Fresh Expressions	-	-	-	500.00	(500.00)	6,809.46	-	6,309.46
CDT Training Events	-	196.59	196.59	196.59	-	-	-	-
Small Church Pastors	-	1,493.15	1,493.15	782.70	710.45	(710.45)	-	-
Mid-Size Church Lead Pastors	-	(203.07)	(203.07)	-	(203.07)	203.07	-	-
Large Church Lead Pastors	-	3,293.87	3,293.87	3,410.42	(116.55)	116.55	-	-
Clergywomen's Coaching Init.	-	-	-	-	-	273.74	-	273.74
	<b>74,326.80</b>	<b>116,202.63</b>	<b>190,529.43</b>	<b>244,113.69</b>	<b>(53,584.26)</b>	<b>369,607.24</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>316,022.98</b>
<b>Board of Ordained Ministry</b>								
Licensing School	-	20,907.58	20,907.58	24,356.88	(3,449.30)	3,449.30	-	-
Order of Elders	-	-	-	-	-	9,276.90	-	9,276.90
Order of Deacons	-	921.57	921.57	1,190.52	(268.95)	3,764.91	-	3,495.96
Welcome Meal at AC	-	2,464.95	2,464.95	2,914.50	(449.55)	449.55	-	-
Local Pastor's Retreat/Lunch	-	-	-	-	-	853.86	-	853.86
Spouse Retreat	-	-	-	-	-	1,213.07	-	1,213.07
Seminary Scholarships	-	32,243.60	32,243.60	16,000.00	16,243.60	(965.31)	-	15,278.29
BOM Training Events	-	-	-	-	-	5,820.40	-	5,820.40
Pell Fund - Josephus Daniels	-	65,000.00	65,000.00	26,850.00	38,150.00	30,500.00	-	68,650.00
Calling 21	-	-	-	4,051.44	(4,051.44)	17,835.93	-	13,784.49
AC Clergy Spouses Luncheon	-	-	-	-	-	2,737.62	-	2,737.62
Ministers' Convocation	-	-	-	-	-	16,429.86	-	16,429.86
Pilgrimages	-	-	-	-	-	2,945.61	-	2,945.61
Cross Culture/Cross Racial	-	-	-	270.24	(270.24)	667.25	-	397.01
VA Clergy Leadership Program	17,408.84	600.00	18,008.84	29,096.38	(11,087.54)	117,678.61	-	106,591.07
Candidacy Summit	-	9,852.96	9,852.96	2,277.55	7,575.41	(2,102.16)	-	5,473.25
Creating a Culture of Renewal	-	21,292.00	21,292.00	48,011.73	(26,719.73)	32,000.00	-	5,280.27
Clergy Spiritual Vitality	-	30,583.29	30,583.29	15,941.55	14,641.74	-	-	14,641.74
United Methodist Studies Program	-	4,450.00	4,450.00	3,003.00	1,447.00	-	-	1,447.00
	<b>17,408.84</b>	<b>188,315.95</b>	<b>205,724.79</b>	<b>173,963.79</b>	<b>31,761.00</b>	<b>242,555.40</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>274,316.40</b>

## VIII. REPORTS OF CONFERENCE BOARDS AND AGENCIES

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

12/31/2022

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

## COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

### SECTION I - Proposed Conference Budget for 2024

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

## Schedule A - Apportionment 401 - Conference Mission &amp; Ministries

	2023	2024	% of Budget	Inc./.(Dec.)	% Chg
<b>SECTION I - Approved Conference Budget for 2023</b>					
<b>Common Table Directed Ministries</b>					
A. Program & Board Administrative (see below)	1,417,000	1,506,000	5.50%	89,000	6.3%
B. Benevolence Grants	160,000	160,000	0.58%	-	0.0%
C. Special & Sustaining Grants	50,000	50,000	0.18%	-	0.0%
D. Targeted Ministries	80,000	80,000	0.29%	-	0.0%
E. Ministries at Educational Institutions	1,186,000	1,200,000	4.39%	14,000	1.2%
	2,893,000	2,996,000	10.94%	103,000	3.6%
<b>Other Ministries</b>					
F. Wesley Foundation Maintenance	85,000	85,000	0.31%	-	0.0%
G. Bishop's Discretionary Fund	20,000	20,000	0.07%	-	0.0%
<b>Total Ministry Expenses</b>	2,998,000	3,101,000	11.32%	103,000	3.4%
<b>Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall</b>	135,000	136,000	0.50%	1,000	0.7%
<b>Total 401 Apportionment</b>	<b>3,133,000</b>	<b>3,237,000</b>	<b>11.82%</b>	<b>104,000</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
<b>Supporting Details for Line Items Above</b>					
<b>A. Program &amp; Board Administrative Expenses</b>					
1. Common Table	3,000	3,000	0.01%	-	0.0%
2. Departmental Administration	58,000	50,000	0.18%	(8,000)	-13.8%
3. Agency Administration	42,000	25,000	0.09%	(17,000)	-40.5%
4. Personnel Costs	695,000	764,000	2.79%	69,000	9.9%
5. Communications	294,000	254,000	0.93%	(40,000)	-13.6%
6. Information Technology	300,000	385,000	1.41%	85,000	28.3%
7. Contingency	25,000	25,000	0.09%	-	0.0%
	1,417,000	1,506,000	5.50%	89,000	6.3%

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

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

**Board of Ordained Ministry**

1. Minister's Family Counseling	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
2. Candidates' Evaluation	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
3. Sexual Ethics Response Team	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
4. Conference Clergy Leadership Program	20,000	20,000	0.07%	-	0.00%
5. Center for Clergy Excellence	14,500	15,500	0.06%	1,000	6.90%
6. Personnel Costs	275,000	275,000	1.01%	-	0.00%
7. Board of Ordained Ministry Administration	70,000	71,000	0.26%	1,000	1.43%
	<b>411,500</b>	<b>413,500</b>	<b>1.51%</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0.49%</b>

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

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

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

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

**2024 Virginia Annual Conference Apportionments**

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

**B. CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENT RECOMMENDATION SPECIFICS:**

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

**401-Conference Mission & Ministries**

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

**402-Conference Services**

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

**403-Appointive Cabinet Fund**

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

**404-Equitable Compensation**

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

#### **405-Church Extension and Development Fund (CEF)**

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

#### **Report on 2022**

As set out in the Annual Conference procedures, the Annual Conference is informed, through this report, of shortfalls in the Apportionments that impact Conference Reserves. These shortfalls were managed through budget cuts, contingency funds, and Conference reserves in accordance with Annual Conference-approved policy. Below are the stated Apportionment Shortfalls for 2022.

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

### **SECTION III — Apportionment Procedures**

#### **A. APPORTIONMENT FORMULA:**

- **All Apportionments except for the Active Clergy Health Benefits**

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

**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, 2023 appointment list. The remaining costs after the tier one calculation will be apportioned to the churches based upon total clergy (regardless of classification) compensation (salary plus accountable reimbursement) paid by a church divided by the total clergy compensation paid in the last year of available statistics (2022 for 2024 apportionments).

- The district then passes the apportionments on to the local church according to recommendations developed by the district superintendents and the district stewards.
- The Council on Finance and Administration, in consultation with the Church Development Team and Cabinet, has the authority to set a policy for apportioning newly chartered churches, Legacy churches, and 2<sup>nd</sup> sites of chartered churches.
  - Effective January 1, 2016, the policy will be to phase in the apportionments for new chartered churches over a five year period with the first year beginning at 20% and increasing 20% for each subsequent year until the church is at 100%.



- Effective January 1, 2016 for a 2<sup>nd</sup> site (satellite & multi-site) locations that are recognized as new faith communities by the Church Development Team and the Cabinet, the existing chartered church may exclude direct expenses of the second site from the apportionment calculation based upon the following schedule:

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

- Effective January 1, 2020, Ecumenical (multi-denominational) churches will be direct billed for health insurance when they are served by an eligible United Methodist pastor and will not be subject to the 407 apportionment.

## **B. REPORTING GUIDELINES:**

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

## **C. IMPORTANCE OF WORLD SERVICE:**

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

## **SECTION IV - Annual Conference Special Offerings**

Annual Conference offerings provide important and life-giving support for key Conference programs. The following are recommended for approval for 2024:

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

## **SECTION V - Policies**

**A. APPOINTIVE CABINET FUND**

Overall Policies for the Fund:

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

**B. TRAVEL & MEETING EXPENSES**

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

- The mileage reimbursement rate is set at 50 cents for Conference staff. The mileage reimbursement rate for volunteers is set at half the IRS rate for volunteers (currently 29 cents) for those serving boards and agencies of the Conference.
- Meals are to be reimbursed at actual costs, but not to exceed \$35 per 24-hour period. (Breakfast on the date of departure from home/office is not accepted; dinner on the date of return is not accepted, except when the arrival to home/office is after 7 p.m.).
- Reimbursement for daily room charges is set at \$200, if the travel incurred extends to a period over three hours prior to the starting time of 10 a.m. on the day of the meeting.
- Spouse expenses are not part of allowable expenses.
- To encourage stewardship in this area, CFA suggests: (1) that advance reading materials be provided for study prior to meetings; and (2) that there be use of teleconferencing, where feasible.

**C. INDIVIDUAL EXPENSES FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Provided for and managed as follows:

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

- Each district is responsible for the expenses of its district superintendent, youth members and members-at-large.
- Each board, agency or committee is responsible for the expenses of its chairpersons, if that person is not a clergy or lay member whose costs are covered by their charge or district.

#### D. CONFERENCE RESERVE FUNDS

Policies on the Maintenance of Reserve Fund Levels:

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

Core Reserves:	
A. 20% of the Conference Budget that closes to reserves	\$ 1,286,000
a. 401 – Conference Mission and Ministries	
b. 402 – Conference Services	
c. 403 – District Superintendents Fund	
d. 404 – Equitable Compensation Fund	
B. 15% of Invested Assets not including cash equivalents	<u>427,000</u>
	<u>\$ 1,713,000</u>

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

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

#### E. PASTOR RELOCATION TRANSITION FUND

1. By action of the June 2003 Annual Conference, CFA has established Pastor Relocation Transition Fund and has provided funding through the Conference Services apportionment.
2. Churches/charges which are served by fulltime clergy appointed to their charge as pastor may request reimbursement on the following schedule for an incoming pastor, if the previous pastor served two years or less in the appointment to their charge:
  - One-year appointment – Seventy-five percent of the verified moving expenses up to a maximum of \$3,000 reimbursement.
  - Two-year appointment – Fifty percent of the verified moving expenses up to a maximum of \$2,000 reimbursement.

3. No moving expenses will be reimbursed that are not in compliance with the Virginia Annual Conference Guidelines for Moving Expenses as printed in the Journal of the Virginia Annual Conference.
4. Payment will be made at the end of the year based on a pro-rata share of the apportionment receipts from the churches.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **J. FINANCIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

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

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

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

### **SECTION VI – A Church in Mission**

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

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

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

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

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

William H Talley IV, President

## VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

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

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

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

**Our mission:** *To serve, steward and minister in the spirit of Christ while focusing on achieving excellence in both customer service and our fiduciary responsibilities.*

As of December 31, 2022, there are over \$96.5 million in assets under management across more than 600 accounts. These accounts include churches, districts, the Virginia United Methodist Conference and United Methodist agencies. The \$96.5 million are invested in four different funds: the Balanced Fund, the Balanced Plus Fund, the Stock Fund and the Bond Fund. Our investment advisors include the Humphrey-Kelly Group, a designated institutional investment consulting team with Merrill Lynch's Global Institutional Consulting group with a focus on non-profit, faith-based organizations.

Foundation staff members visit local churches to assist in starting endowment programs to support the long-term funding of mission projects. For example, scholarship funds are popular and ensure that younger generations will have the education needed to proclaim the message of Christ. The Foundation currently manages more than 90 endowments. We also assist churches and their members set up donor advised funds (DAFs) and other charitable gift optimization strategies.

Since 2015, the Foundation's grant ministry has awarded a total of nearly \$400,000 in grants to Virginia United Methodist Churches and affiliated agencies across the Virginia Conference. The program's focus is on unifying mission, ministry and impact to better assist and equip ministries in their projects, as well as to help them build a future. Grants are given from three funds:

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

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

Throughout 2023 and beyond, our commitment to serving every local church and dedication to helping all God's children, both present and forthcoming generations, is steadfast. We stand ready to help your church or your members design a program of ministries that can grow and serve others because your church finances are on sound footings.

– Bo Bowden, President

## Virginia United Methodist Development Company

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

DevCo loan services include new construction loans, facility expansion loans, capital improvement loans, debt refinancing, as well as loans for building purchase and land acquisition. As of December 31, 2022, the Development Company has 41 loans totaling \$34.7 million throughout the Virginia Conference.

As part of the connection, DevCo makes loans to United Methodist churches and related entities, funded by savings

and investment certificates from United Methodist churches, related ministries, members and family or friends. DevCo acts as a conduit for missional investing and is able to provide financing to help advance God's kingdom. With the help of more than 750 DevCo investment accounts totaling nearly \$40 million, loans are made for a variety of situations, such as providing a church the opportunity to buy an adjacent piece of property for additional parking, opening a preschool in an underserved community, or saving the church thousands of dollars by refinancing its mortgage. Through missional investing, a church can redirect funds to the community and help create "open hearts, open minds and open doors."

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

*– Bo Bowden, President*