

**QUARTERLY
REPORT**



THE



SOURCE

QUARTER 1 2026
Released May 2026

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The Q Source

THE NAME

The "Q source" (from the German word "Quelle," meaning "source") is a hypothetical, lost collection of sayings of Jesus, which biblical scholars believe was the primary source used by the authors of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

WHAT IS THIS REPORT

This report aims to give Virginia Conference members an easy digest of the work that is happening across the Virginia Conference on a regular basis. The hope would be that conference clergy and laity could more readily have examples of how ministry is happening across the conference, point to "bright spots" in the VAUMC, and expect more regular updates from operational offices such as Treasurer's Office and VUMPI.

Members can anticipate an update in this format every quarter. Feedback or questions are welcome by emailing VAUMC Director of Communications at MadelineWhite@vaumc.org.



News within the connection

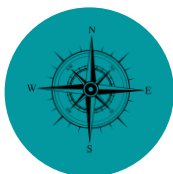


RESOURCES FOR SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES, UMC HISTORY

Looking for resources for individual or small group settings?

Don't forget you can view all episodes of **Soul Feast**, a series with Bishop Sue and Martha Stokes, conference lay leader, exploring spiritual disciplines using the book *Soul Feast* as a guide.

Also, find all episodes now of the **Wesleyan Ways** series in which Bishop Sue, joined by numerous guests, examined our historical and theological roots as United Methodists. This series used Rev. Jim Harnish's book *Journey to the Center of the Faith* as our frame.



BISHOP & VAUMC HEAD TO OXFORD

Members of the VAUMC joined Bishop Sue for a May pilgrimage to England to walk in the footsteps of Rev. John Wesley. Pictured here is Bishop Sue with the 2026 VAUMC ordinands.



News within the connection



REVIEW OF 2025 RETREAT MINISTRIES

Across all five Virginia UMC Camp and Retreat Centers, over 2,700 people participated in Summer Camp and over 30,000 people participated in year-round retreat ministries in 2025.



CLERGY EXCELLENCE SHOUT OUT

This year, please celebrate that the Board of Ordained Ministry has recommended the following:

- 2 candidates for provisional deacon
- 8 candidates for provisional elder
- 2 candidates for associate membership
- 2 candidates for ordained deacon
- 8 candidates for ordained elder
- 4 transfers (2 FE, 3 PE, 1 FL, 1 OF)

These candidates will be presented at the Annual Conference. Pray for them as they prepare to enter into the next steps answering God's calling upon their lives.



BELONGING & ADVOCACY TOURS

I have been blessed to visit three districts on the Coffee Hour Tour (Coastal Virginia, Shenandoah River, and Three Notch'd). Along those visits, we made at least 20 stops sitting and listening to laity, clergy, and mission partners. We focus on four main discussion topics: Who are you? Who I (Lan and the Office of Belonging & Advocacy) am, What social needs exist in the area and what ministry is happening to meet those needs, and finally how that Conference office support and resource you in this work? It's been a fantastic learning experience so far; and I am very much looking forward to continuing the journey on the remaining districts. -Rev. Lan Davis Wilson

News within the connection



VIEW ANNUAL REPORT FROM HATCHING FAITH



Annual Program Report VAUMC Initiative Preparing the Way for Children

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Hatching Faith Cohorts project is to discover how to more meaningfully engage children in corporate worship by leading congregations through a three-phase process.

THE THREE PHASE MODEL



**Nesting
Preparation**
Congregations get ready.



**Hatching
Design & Experiment**
Try new worship practices.



**Nurturing
Sustainability**
Spread and sustain the model.

YEAR 1 IMPACT

98% of those who noticed change said worship now includes **more** opportunities for children to be creative.

8
churches in
Cohort 1

87%
said their worship
experience has **improved**

86%
noticed **more** children
present in worship

+19%
ave. **improvement**
in bulletin accessibility

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WORSHIP

Family-focused worship services centered on family participation, across several congregations.



Child-led liturgy
Child written and led
liturgical elements



Worship arts program
Liturgical dance and displayed
art created by children



Table-based worship
Coloring, snacks, fidgets and
family-style communion



Multi-sensory scripture
invitation for congregational
participation in storytelling

LOOKING AHEAD

Winter 2026



Cohorts 2 & 3
enter Nesting phase

Spring 2026



Cohort 1 completes Hatching phase
Cohorts 2&3 enter Hatching phase

May 2026



Cohort 1 enters
Nurturing phase

Fall 2026



Hatching continues with initial
experiments + micro-grants for Cohorts 2&3

April 2027



Cohorts 2&3 complete
Hatching phase

LEARN MORE:
vaumc.org/hatchingfaith

Rev. Hannah Bryn
Director of Hatching Faith Cohorts
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Rev. Jennifer Coffey
Hatching Faith Cohort Coordinator
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MAY WE ALWAYS LOVE
BOLDLY, SERVE JOYFULLY,
AND LEAD
COURAGEOUSLY.

Conference Lay Leader

The first three months of 2026 have started strong for our Virginia Conference lay ministries.

- Conference and district Lay Servant Ministry events have involved more than 400 participants so far this conference year (July – March). The Conference Lay Servant Academy was held virtually on **February 20-21** with courses not only offered that weekend but also over longer periods as Lenten study opportunities. There was participation from across the conference. In addition, the Coastal Virginia, Mission Rivers, Shenandoah River, and Valley Ridge Districts hosted Lay Servant Trainings during the first quarter. We look forward to an early May Lay Servant Ministries training in the Three Notch'd District as they begin to revitalize their lay servant opportunities.

- The Virginia Conference Certified Lay Ministry (CLM) training program continues to grow, involved 34 students so far this conference year. CLMs serve as part of a ministry team with supervision and support of a clergy person to lead in a wide variety of ways such as conducting worship, caring for the congregation, leading small groups, and establishing outreach ministries. To learn more about the CLM program, visit the VAUMC website at <https://vaumc.org/lay-servant-ministries/>. As we look forward to the 2026 Annual Conference, plan to join us for breakfast on **Friday, June 19** at Dayton UMC. This is a combined event sponsored by the Virginia United Women in Faith and the United Methodist Men. Keynote speaker is Jeremy Harold, Greenspace Manager for the City of Harrisonburg, whose topic will be “Caring for God’s Creation.” The cost is \$18 for a wonderful breakfast buffet. Registration is open until June 12 at <https://forms.gle/HLvjrWHY3yz1WFjV8>





Connectional Ministries

REV. CHRIS MCLAIN, DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

"So much is new! When we meet for The Virginia Annual Conference **June 17-June 20**, it will be at the Atlantic Union Bank Center at JMU in Harrisonburg for the first time. And the task before us as Church is constantly new as we share eternal goodness in an ever changing world.

Bishop Sue is clear that churches and pastors are sent to make God's love incarnate in their several communities. To be fruitful, the Virginia Annual Conference has learned that pastors and churches/ministries serving as one team matters most. That means that whether we are in our first year or our next year of service, team formation matters. A friend of mine is fond of saying, "We get to." As we form as a team serving God, we get to commit to each other, to open up to each other, to seek God's purposes for the communities we serve together, to go out together. May God bless your formation.

Since we'll be at Annual Conference in a new location, we'll need each other. We'll need to help each other get around. We'll need each other's sense of humor and patience. The Conference staff is preparing orientation information with an emphasis on new parking, new spaces, and new accessibility needs. In those little moments of helping each other through the new, I pray we will learn new names and that in each person we will meet Christ. That's why we come . . . to grow in grace together, be renewed in Spirit together, and find God leading us into the future in our communities with a very present hope. Often, when we face the new around us, hope feels far away, as if we are doing things alone.

I want to call us to remember: we are connected. At the Conference and District levels, we are striving to meet the newness and revive our sense of connectedness. Connected in supporting each other through life needs (by reaching out in times of need, parental leave, financial resourcing, and fellowship, healing, and learning opportunities); Connected in our approach to our communities (by exploring ways to build on the best of our learnings through clusters); and Connecting through strategic resourcing needs. The Connectional Table is our experimental governance/strategic structure in the Virginia Annual Conference, and I invite you to envision it--not above you, rather--coming up beneath you to resource and amplify. One of the resourcing tools to strengthen your church's community engagement is in development and will be shared at Annual Conference. In the newness, embrace hope. You are **9** connected: with teammates, in our connected ministries, and in our connection. And "best of all, God is with us." See you at Annual Conference!

Discipleship

Office of Lay Leadership Development

Save the date!

The youth of the Virginia Conference are Called to Serve! This year's fall retreat will focus on the call of young people to use their gifts to serve others. The retreat will meet at **Rappahannock Camp and Retreat Center, November 6-8, 2026**. Registration will open in June. Please reach out to Dwayne Stinson with questions (dwaynestinson@vaumc.org).

The August Lay Servant Academy is set for **August 14-15, 2026**. Please check the [website](#) for updates on courses available and for registration. Many districts offer lay servant training throughout the year. You can find more information on district opportunities [here](#).



Campus Ministry Support

The Virginia Annual Conference supports five United Methodist colleges, universities, and schools, and 12 campus ministries. As costs rise and conference funding shifts, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry has established an endowment fund to provide income to support our ministries at institutions of higher education. If you or your church would like to learn more, contact Dwayne Stinson (dwaynestinson@vaumc.org). To contribute to the endowment, click [here](#), or contact Dwayne to help facilitate funds or securities transfer.



Missional & Community Engagement

UPDATE FROM VAUMC GLOBAL MISSION

REV. NANCY ROBINSON, VIRGINIA CSGM (CONFERENCE SECRETARY FOR GLOBAL MINISTRIES)
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- Bishop Sue returned from the Board of Directors for GBGM/GBHEM in Kenya this April. She said of the meeting, "As we prepare to leave Kenya, I'm sooo proud of the global work of The United Methodist Church. As a Board member of General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to visit, hear stories and see our global impact, we leave motivated and inspired to continue our partnerships and investments. The scriptural theme of the meeting was "blessed are the peacemakers". May we continue to be faithful in this call. These are well invested apportionment dollars!!! Thank you UMC churches for the difference you make globally!!! " Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Kenya, April 11, 2026
- VAUMC Partnerships of Hope leadership team represents the local churches of the Virginia Annual Conference local churches in mission together globally. What a joy to join together serving.
 - **Brazil** We continue to support the Shade and Fresh Water program, and celebrate the fruit of this as some of these now young adults are going forward into the Global Mission Fellow program. Liaison -Rev. Nilse Fertado-Gilliam.
 - **Haiti** Due to ongoing volatility and unrest we are unable to travel to Haiti; under the leadership of Rev. Jack Martin, rvjtm@aol.com, we continue to work in tandem with UMCOR to strengthen and support devastated faith communities with funding to bring hope and a sign of peacemaking by rebuilding churches and ministry centers.
 - **Mozambique** Your gifts were put to recovery for thousands suffering the loss of homes and security in recent flooding, especially in Madagascar, part of Bishop Sambo's Episcopal area which covers Mozambique North, Central and South, Eswatini and Madagascar. We have an active relationship under the direction of Thyrsa Mucambe our liaison with a focus on Evangelism and discipleship training. Bishop Sambo's wife, Delia has invited a connection women to women, Mozambique with Virginia . Seek out their representatives at Assembly in May. Liaison is Rev. T.Joel Robinette(joelrobinette@vaumc.org).
 - **Vietnam** A exploration and relationship building small UMVIM team will travel to Vietnam this fall to learn how we can be a part of what God is doing through the Vietnam Methodist Mission. Contact liason Ann Klotz (Jasnc5@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining or finding more about the team. Liaison Rev. Hieu Phan (hieuphan@vaumc.org).
 - **Cambodia** Virginia continues to support the training of young men and women, street children's ministry and country director Helen Camarce, GBGM missionary. Liaison is Rev. Glenn Rowley (glenn.rowley@gmail.com).
 - **Native American Ministries** is focused on generation to generation sharing of our faith in Christ and putting that in context. As partners we have helped establish a website and a sponsored a nationwide celebration/educational event together. Liaison Rev. Larry Jent (Rt) larryjent@hotmail.com.

Thank your for your generous support through the conference offerings,invdividually and as churches.

Treasurer



Apportionment Overview

Despite winter weather challenges that impacted church attendance, the Annual Conference collected 17.6% of Conference Apportionments in the first quarter of 2026. This is an increase of 1.5% over Q1 2025. The shift from apportioning Active Clergy Health in 2025 to Direct Bill Health in 2026 is showing an overall positive result both for the Conference Apportionments and for our Pensions office (VUMPI). This shift appears to have given local churches a greater ability to support the Connection. District Apportionment collections have also reflected a positive increase in collection percentage from 18.4% Q1 2025 to 19.3% in Q1 2026.



**2026 First Quarter
apportionment
collection**



**Q1 2026 increase
over Q1 2025
apportionments**



Treasurer



2027 Proposed Conference Budget

The Council on Finance and Administration met recently and approved the 2027 Proposed Conference Budget with a \$73,000 increase which is a 0.5% increase. This proposal will come before the Annual Conference for a vote in June in Harrisonburg, Va. The Budget Committee worked closely with our ministry offices to keep apportionments as low as possible while providing the administrative structure for our conference and the ministry support and resources for our local churches. Please see the Book of Reports for additional details.

2025 Church Donations Review and 2026 outlook:

Overall, 2025 church donations were stable with little change from 2024. Churches with strong digital giving did better than those without digital options. According to Yahoo Finance, 57% of churches saw an increase in digital giving and it is common that digital giving represents greater than 40% of the total gifts received by churches. The number of people giving continued to decline and that churches are more reliant on large donors as giving becomes more concentrated among committed givers.

Middle-income givers are experiencing economic pressures from both a softening of the jobs market and high inflation and the related impact on discretionary income. Many households are giving less or stopping altogether. Most givers are expecting to hold flat, but up to a quarter of Americans expect to cut back on giving in 2026. Overall, expectations for charitable giving in 2026 are flat, with fewer overall donors and more concentration in core givers.

Churches that expect to beat the overall trends should focus on developing a strong, repetitive digital giving platform and an emphasis on donor engagement. The Virginia United Methodist Foundation is a great resource for those churches looking to improve in either of those practices and I encourage you to reach out to them for assistance.



Other Offices

TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees continues to work through the inventory of closed church properties to determine the best and highest use for each one, taking into consideration the property it's self as well as the needs of the community in which it is located.

We are happy to report that effort has resulted in four every exciting developments.

Melfa UMC: This property has been leased at no cost to the Coastal Virginia District for the purpose of developing a ministry in the mid-Eastern Shore region. This ministry has already borne fruit, and we are excited to see what develops in the future.

Walmsley Blvd UMC: This property is under contract to build low-income housing which is in short supply in the Walmsley Blvd area. It is our hope that this new housing development will help provide safe, well maintained living space to those who find housing a challenge.

Brookland UMC: This property is also under contract to build low-income housing in the Staples Mill area. Once again, this is a much-needed housing option in this area.

Epworth UMC Norfolk: We have been working with the District and Community leaders to determine the best use for this urban property. After much discussion, we are ready to send out an RFP (Request For Proposal) to interested parties. We have requested proposals which will keep the historic sanctuary to be used as a venue for the growing Arts Community in this section of Norfolk. The rest of the property will hopefully be redeveloped into a Day Care/Child Education center which community leaders have told us is desperately needed.

We are excited about the future of these properties. We believe that the proposed use of these properties not only serves the needs of the community in which they are located but also honors the legacy of those worship communities who cared for these properties for so many years.

Kathy Lutman, President
Kathy.lutman@gmail.com 540-454-2836

Other Offices

VUMPI

- Beginning in late April, in partnership with the Virginia United Methodist Foundation, VUMPI will lead another session of Saving Grace for Virginia Conference clergy. Developed by Wespeth, our denominational pension agency, Saving Grace is a personal finance program based on Wesleyan values. The seven-week program is designed to help clergy create healthy relationships with money and to bring their finances in line with their faith-based values.
- The new Compass denominational clergy retirement savings plan was launched at the beginning of 2026, and VUMPI has observed a significant increase in the participation rate among Virginia Conference clergy compared to the individual contribution rate to the pre-Compass denominational retirement savings program.
- In support of the Clergy Debt Relief LLC, a ministry of the Virginia Annual Conference created to help clergy refinance student and consumer debt at low interest rates, VUMPI has provided over \$360,000 to fund clergy refinancing loans.
- The Via Benefits retiree medical program was launched at the beginning of 2026, enabling qualifying Virginia Conference retired clergy to access a broad range of Medicare supplemental insurance programs, along with ancillary plans like dental and vision plans. Approximately 100 retired clergy elected to transition out of the legacy plan and into a new plan through Via Benefits.



Other Offices

FOUNDATION

Have you ever heard of a “golden tithe” — leaving 10% or more of your estate to the church as a final act of stewardship?

Traditional retirement accounts such as IRA, 401(k) or TSP are great options to leave money to your church because charities do not pay federal income tax on the gift, so 100% of the amount goes to the church.

By contrast, naming your non-spouse family members as beneficiaries means their inheritance, which must be withdrawn in 10 years, is taxed at their current tax rate. Changing beneficiaries is easy. The church can receive a specific dollar amount or a percentage.

John Wesley encouraged, “Gain all you can, save all you can, and give all you can.” For some people, one of the most meaningful and generous gifts is the final one they leave behind. Thoughtful planning can bless both your family and the ministries you care about most so your faith can continue to bear fruit even after life on this earth.

If this topic is of interest, consider discussing it with your family or financial advisor. A little planning can go a long way in caring for both your loved ones and the ministries you support.



Coastal Virginia District

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Coastal Virginia District was excited to host two District Training Days, one at Community UMC in Virginia Beach and one at Franktown UMC on the Eastern Shore. Both days offered two Lay Servant Ministry classes, a wonderful plenary session on cooperative ministry by the Rev. Dr. Kyunsuk Cho (February 7th) or Rev. Dr. Jason Stanley (March 7th) and workshops that focused on our district's core values.
- We are very excited about what the Holy Spirit is doing at The Table, our new district ministry taking place in Melfa. Melfa UMC voted to close last fall, and the district is now renting the building from the Conference Trustees. It has been beautiful to see the Melfa and surrounding communities fully embrace this new effort to reach new people in this community. Community members have donated time, services, goods and a bus. On **February 14**, members from Adams UMC hosted a Valentine's breakfast for the community, and over 40 people came for a free breakfast and completed a survey, so the district could better understand the desires of the community. Monthly Community dinners have begun as well. The first worship service, combined with Adams UMC, had 104 people in attendance on Easter!



Living Waters District

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The first quarter of 2026 was a season of meaningful ministry and deepening relationships across the LWD.
- In January, we held our district-wide training event called EMPOWER. Nearly 200 pastors/laity gathered for a day of equipping in ministry areas, including Finance, Trustees, Lay Servanthood, Disaster Response, SPRC, Nominations, SAS, and Youth ministries. Adding to the excitement, four grants totaling \$2,500 were awarded to participating churches with creative ministry visions.
- February brought a different kind of blessing when Bethel UMC in Alberta housed the traveling monks whose Walk for Peace journeyed through many corners of our district. It was a beautiful reminder of what ministry often looks like by simply showing up and welcoming others well.
- In March, we gathered again for our Cross-Cultural and Minority Pastors meeting. It is a space intentionally designed to encourage those navigating challenging appointments and to remind them that they do not walk alone.
- Bethel UMC in Alberta also held a region-wide youth revival where over 100 youth came and enjoyed a day of worship and mission activities. It was an outstanding event.
- It was a quarter well lived, with many lives impacted through ministry.



CAPTION: CROSS-CULTURAL AND MINORITY PASTORS MEETING



Mission Rivers District

HAPPENINGS IN THE DISTRICT

- Despite the weather, District Training Day was a great success! More than 30 sessions were offered across a variety of areas, including the nuts and bolts of church leadership, technology, missions and outreach, faith formation, and foundations of care. We were grateful to have speakers from across the District and Conference share their ministries and insights.
- Lay Servant Ministries continue to thrive in Mission Rivers. With training opportunities offered throughout the year, our winter sessions included courses such as the BASIC class, Spiritual Gifts, Preaching (offered twice!), and the Enneagram. After a brief pause for Holy Week, we're excited to begin our spring sessions, which will feature classes on Leading Worship, The Sacraments, and Lay Servant Pastoral Caregiving. For a full listing of this year's offerings, please visit: [District Lay Servant Training | VAUMC](#)
- District Clergy had a wonderful day at our Bake & Pray retreat day in February. Bake & Pray is a unique approach to bread baking that emphasizes the integration of prayer into the process—viewing it as a liturgy rather than focusing solely on producing a perfect loaf. Participants are invited to slow down, deepen their faith, enrich their prayer lives, and experience God's beauty in the tangible and delicious gift of bread. (Contact Maria Niechwiadowicz about organizing Bake & Pray for your congregation or group: makerbakermaria@gmail.com)
- Leadership from 17 churches participated in the Grace-filled Invitation and Hospitality hands-on workshop with Paul Nickerson. The workshop taught new ways to connect with new people, offer a genuine welcome, and accompany them on a meaningful journey of faith. The churches will have follow-up coaching as part of the program.



CAPTION: TAKING A PICTURE AT THE HOSPITALITY WORKSHOP

Mountain View District

HIGHLIGHTS:

Q1 of 2026 was all about equipping clergy and laity for leadership in the Mountain View District as we continued our yearlong focus of Celebrating our Wesleyan Heritage.

Clergy:

- Got inspired to be “more vile” by Dr. Ashley Bogan, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History, who presented her book “Wesleyan Vile-tality: Reclaiming the Heart of Methodist Identity.”
- Honed preaching skills in DS Sarah Calvert’s “Vile Pastors Preaching Project,” who guided pastors through intentional preaching growth grounded in Wesleyan tradition, peer encouragement, and congregational insight.

Laity:

- Learned about polity, leading public prayer and spiritual gifts in our MVD Lay Servant Ministry training day, and

Clergy and Laity together:

- Learned how to “Cultivate Generous Congregations” at an interactive seminar that inspired leaders to change their approach to giving and generosity, led by Rev. Meredith McNabb of The Lake Institute of Faith and Giving; and
- Strategized together about the future of the Lynchburg’s ten UMCs. Together they explored faithful, sustainable pathways for ministry in the heart of the city and imagined healthier futures—whether through mergers, cooperative parish models, shared staffing or facilities, creative partnerships, or other forms of collaboration that will allow them to steward their buildings, resources, and people for vibrant ministry.



CELEBRATING OUR
WESLEYAN ROOTS
VILE-TALITY • WORSHIP • DISCIPLESHIP
with John, Charles, & Susanna Wesley

Shenandoah River District

The Shenandoah River District entered 2026 with a steady rhythm of connection, encouragement, and shared ministry.

Holy Week offered a powerful example of that unity. Rather than holding separate, repetitive services, several congregations in north Augusta County chose collaboration. Dayton, Weyers Cave, Mount Sidney, and Bethany United Methodist Churches, alongside Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church, joined together to host a community-wide Good Friday service titled “Funeral for Jesus.” Local clergy portrayed key biblical figure—friends, followers, and family of Christ—offering dramatic witness reflections that brought the story of the crucifixion to life not merely as scripture, but as deeply personal, lived experience. Designed as a space for collective grief and contemplation, the service drew a larger, more diverse community into a shared and memorable observance.

This is just one story among many. Across the district, congregations continue choosing to grow together rather than survive separately—showing up for one another with faith, energy, and purpose.

Looking ahead, the district is preparing to host the Virginia Annual Conference this summer in Harrisonburg. Volunteers from across the Conference are warmly invited to join—sign up at cognitofirms.com/VAUMC/AnnualConference2026VolunteerShifts.



Three Notch'd District

MISSION LAUNCH ON JULY 1

Southwood Village Mission to Launch on July 1

We are excited to announce the launch of the Southwood Village Mission, a new United Methodist ministry beginning July 1, with Jair Serrano serving as Pastor. This new mission reflects our commitment to be present with our neighbors and to cultivate a ministry rooted in relationships, discipleship, and community partnership. Southwood is a resilient neighborhood in the Charlottesville area, home to more than 1,300 residents, many of whom are Spanish speaking. The community has experienced significant transition in recent years through an innovative redevelopment partnership with Habitat for Humanity that emphasizes resident leadership and long-term stability. We believe this is an important time to establish a full-time, bilingual United Methodist presence within the neighborhood. Pastor Serrano and his family will live in the community, allowing ministry to grow through daily connection and shared life.

We celebrate the collaborative funding model that makes this mission possible. Over the past two years, Charlottesville First UMC, Aldersgate UMC, and the Three Notch'd District have worked together to secure financial support to make this mission possible. Their shared and significant commitment reflects the power of connectional ministry and our collective desire to create new places for new people. We pray that the Southwood Village Mission will nurture spiritual growth, develop local leaders, and provide advocacy and a welcoming place where neighbors can build relationships of trust, support, and hope. Please join us in praying for Pastor Serrano, for the Southwood community, and for the lives that will be blessed through this new mission.

Valley Ridge District

A Season of Learning and Growing Together

The Valley Ridge District got off to a full and fruitful start in 2026.

In January, district clergy joined Mountain View for a joint meeting featuring a plenary address and Q&A with Dr. Ashley Boggan, General Secretary of the Commission on Archives and History and author of works including *Wesleyan Vile-tality: Reclaiming the Heart of Methodist Identity* and *Calling on Fire: Reclaiming the Method of Methodism*. It was a rich conversation about Methodist identity and practice as the second installment in our "Celebrating our Wesleyan Roots" series.

In February, the district partnered with the Mountain View District again for a Zoom training event covering S/PPRC duties and Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS), supporting both new and returning committee members. Later that month, nearly 50 lay servants gathered at Genesis Church for a full day of training covering polity, preaching, heritage, autism awareness, and lay servant basics. That same month, seven churches brought about 60 young people together for the Valley Ridge Youth Retreat, centered on the theme "Eyes Wide Open," with youth engaging in worship, small groups, spiritual gifts exploration, and the "Wesley Olympics."

District Lay Leader Larry Dickenson has also been traveling across the district, holding listening sessions with laity.

It has been a season of equipping, connecting, and growing together across every level of the district.





Upcoming VAUMC Dates

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

June 17- 20, 2026

NEXT Q SOURCE (Q2 2026)

Released in August 2026

