

**QUARTERLY
REPORT**



THE



SOURCE

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Table of Contents

4

What is this
report?

5

News within
the connection

6

Bishop

7

Connectional
Ministries

8-10

Lay Leadership &
Discipleship

11

Intergenerational
Formation

Table of Contents

13

Missional &
Community
Engagement

14

Treasurer

18

VUMPI

19

Foundation

20-26

Districts

24

Upcoming
Dates

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



SEASON OF CREATION BEGINS

The Feast of Creation + Season of Creation in Christ starts September 1. It can be celebrated for four Sundays beginning September 6. Take a moment to explore the concept and the resources provided.

View the video of the concept and its history in Creation Day aka Feast of Creation: from the World Council of Churches.

This is a new Holy Day and Season for United Methodists. A Worship Series, **Salt+Soil+Seawater** has been created by the United Methodist National Creation Justice Movement for clergy and laity to use during the month of September, or at a time that fits the local church calendar.



CLERGY PAYROLL RESOURCES

An email was sent on Monday, August 17 to clergy and church treasurers about the next steps for clergy payroll changes. In June, the Annual Conference body voted to accept CFA's Proposal to the Virginia Conference as presented in the Book of Reports on page 79. (Find some of the history behind this proposal [here](#).)

Beginning January 1, 2027, clergy payroll shall be administered through one of three options:

(A) Clergy payroll may continue to be managed by a paid professional staff member of the local church.

(B) Clergy payroll may continue to be managed through an outside payroll vendor selected and funded by the local church.

(C) Clergy payroll may be administered by the Virginia Conference Clergy Payroll managed by the Treasurer's Office at no additional cost to the local church. **Learn more...**

A portrait of Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, a woman with short, wavy brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a red jacket. The portrait is set within a circular frame with a yellow border.

BISHOP SUE HAUPERT-JOHNSON

Bishop Sue at Annual Conference 2026 challenged the conference to extend the Table this next year.

How will you incorporate this in your churches from merely an idea on page to a reality?

"We are compelled by the Holy Spirit to offer tables all around our community," Bishop Sue said. "I challenge you. Extend the Table. Figure out how you're going to do that. Figure out how your church is going to do that. Figure out how you connect with other churches and other United Methodist churches. How do you extend the welcome of Jesus Christ in a world where few are knocking on our door to come in?"





Connectional Ministries

REV. CHRIS MCLAIN, DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

"BEGINNING WITH THE END IN MIND"

We're fresh off of Annual Conference, and Thank You! Thank you for a Spirit-filled Conference. There is no Virginia Conference without all of us together! Thank you for a wonderful year of ministry and for opening the way into the next. Your feedback is already helping AC27 take shape. You are helping my office begin with the end in mind, and I hope to return the favor with a few questions.

When your representatives arrive at AC27, what story of ministry is God asking them to bring? Who will they tell the story with—because they partnered together? What pain in your community will have found faithful friends in your campus, extension, or local church ministry? What grants will you pursue? If you are on a board or agency for the Virginia Annual Conference, what is God inviting you to share in your next report?

Now that you have an end in mind, let's begin this new Conference year with a sense of needs, neighbors, and partners. Connected with our sibling churches, let's allow the unique gifts God has given in each church to connect in our communities.

One creative, rural church used to have a fertilizer swap in the church parking lot. Conversations and connections were built across countless acres. The church meant connection. That matters everyday and in every place. Where would we be without healthy, supportive connections? What creative ideas are stirring where you are?

Once there's have a sketch of where things will end up, it's time to schedule. That's what's happening in Connectional Ministries . . . scheduling the meetings, trainings, connections, teachings, grants, due dates, and so on. It's a start that has the end in mind to serve the local ministries and connections in the Virginia Conference.

What and who is on your ministry's calendar . . . because of the purpose God is giving you? May God bless all of your beginnings, and may your ministry and all of ours together honor the good end God has in mind for this year.

Lay Leadership Development

Campus Ministry Update

2026 has seen a number of transitions in campus ministries supported by the conference.

- Clara Benson, the new director of the Wesley Foundation at Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College, serves half-time in that role and half-time at Farmville UMC. Clara recently completed her Th.M. from Candler School of Theology, and is beginning the candidacy process.
- Rev. Paige Holaday has succeeded Rev. Ryan LaRock as Director of the Wesley Foundation at William & Mary. Paige is a deacon in full connection in the Florida annual conference and has spent the last five years as associate director of the Auburn University Wesley Foundation.
- Rev. Michael Cuffee will continue to serve Crossroads UMC, but is stepping into the half-time role of director of the Wesley Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State University. Having served as interim campus minister since 2025,
- Rev. Thomas Wynn will continue long-term as the campus minister at Virginia State University. The Campus Christian Community at the University of Mary Washington is entering into partnership with The House, an Episcopal-Lutheran campus ministry. The campus minister at The House, Rev. Ethan Lowery will now integrate the two communities as their joint campus minister.
- Rev. Paulette Almond and Mrs. Nancy Yarborough are providing support for students at Christopher Newport University through the ministries of the local churches where they serve
- We say goodbye to Rev. Dr. Joy Carrington, who has faithfully served the Wesley Westminster Foundation, to Rev. Ryan LaRock, from William & Mary Wesley, and to Rev. Michael Burnett, who led FLOURISH at Christopher Newport for a number of years. Please pray for our campus ministries in these transitions.



Discipleship

GYPC 2026

From **July 6-10**, seven youth and two adults from across the conference traveled to the **Global Young Peoples' Convocation** in Dublin, Ireland. Normally a quadrennial event where youth and young adults gather to craft legislation for General Conference, the 2026 GYPC was an open event. With representation from 15 countries plus multiple Methodist denominations, the gathering drew 600 young people who spent the week receiving specialized training in how to craft and submit legislation to General Conference and workshops in areas of ministry that ranged from the history of the United Methodist student movement to practical tools for discipleship to a panel of bishops. Worship included speakers from around the world who shared ways young people can make an impact.



FALL YOUTH RETREAT

The fall youth retreat is **November 6-8, 2026** at Camp Rappahannock Camp & Retreat Center in Richardsville Va. The theme is Called to Serve, and leadership tracks will include Loving our Neighbors, Serving through Worship & Arts, Called and Gifted to Serve, Serving as a True friend (supporting friends in crisis), and Serving with Respect: Inclusiveness, Openmindedness & Outreach that includes all people. Regular registration is \$185/person (t-shirts cost an additional \$10). Late registration increases to \$195. Registration will be live and available by September 1 at [this page](#).



Intergenerational Formation

HATCHING FAITH

Hatching Faith Cohorts hosted the second cohort Kick-Off event on **April 17-18, 2026** at Massanetta Springs Retreat Center. The Kick-Off event aimed to equip church leaders and children with creative ways to further engage in corporate worship and prayer. You can watch a quick highlight video of the Kick-Off event here: <https://youtu.be/pKYjFLFL5lw>

The churches listed below have entered the Hatching Phase of Cohort 2:

- Salem UMC (Coastal VA) Rev. Mandy Midgett
- Messiah UMC (Coastal VA) Rev. Lauren Wright
- Wellspring UMC (Mission Rivers) Rev. Bertina Westley
- Main Street UMC-Bedford (Mountain View) Rev. Dr. Dawn Compton
- Greenwood UMC (Three Notch'd) Rev. Crystal Sygeel
- Centenary UMC (Three Notch'd) Rev. Emily Bagwell
- Greene Memorial UMC (Valley Ridge) Rev. Joanna Paysour

The churches listed below have entered the Hatching Phase of Cohort 3:

- Main Street UMC-Suffolk (Living Waters) Rev. Richard Meiser
- Urbanna UMC (Mission Rivers) Rev. Carl Perez
- Smith Memorial UMC (Mountain View) Rev. Ryan Ware
- Zion UMC-Troy (Three Notch'd) Rev. David McWilliams
- Bon Air UMC (Three Notch'd) Rev. Dr. Hyo Lee
- St John's UMC-Buena Vista (Valley Ridge) Rev. Mary Dadisman

Please be in prayer for these churches, their leaders, and their Hatch Teams as they ideate, discern, and implement their worship experiment over the next 6-8 months



Intergenerational Formation

HATCHING FAITH CONT'D

The application for Cohort 4 and Cohort 5 opened **August 1, 2026** and closes **February 14, 2027**. There will be two informational sessions offered via Zoom to answer questions and share more about Hatching Faith. They will be on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, October 13, 2025 at 7 p.m.

In 2025, the Office of Intergenerational Formation strengthened its work of resourcing local churches and ministry partners as they nurtured meaningful, faith-shaping relationships across generations.

- The office convened the first Camp Directors Association meeting, fostering shared learning, prayer, collaboration, and visioning among the conference's five camp and retreat centers
- the Hatching Faith team worshiped alongside cohort congregations and witnessed the creative ways churches are intentionally forming disciples of all ages, particularly by engaging Christ's youngest disciples in worship.
- The year concluded with the applications for Hatching Faith year two closing.
- the Interactive Advent Calendar was created and distributed to equip congregations and households with simple, meaningful intergenerational practices throughout the season, supporting daily prayer, storytelling, service, and wonder
- 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.



Missional & Community Engagement

GLOBAL MINISTRIES – THE UNITED METHODISM CONNECTION IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

REV. NANCY ROBINSON, VIRGINIA CSGM (CONFERENCE SECRETARY FOR GLOBAL MINISTRIES)

- The Virginia Conference Partnerships of Hope (POH) is actively building relationships and continuing work together through local churches supporting missionaries and supporting established programs meeting the needs of children, youth and empowerment of women worldwide.
- Currently, the **Shade and Fresh Water** (Sombra e Agua Fresca) program in Brazil is fully established in every conference and we have a representative providing oversight of this life-giving endeavor. Welcome Michelle Kunch, Global Ministries promoter of Shade and Fresh Water. We look forward to getting to know you and the children in Brazil.
- **Volunteer in Mission teams** will be going this fall to **Cambodia and Vietnam** to build friendships and discover the power of the God's presence in the face of challenge each of these areas live with; experiencing God's love lived out among the communities where women are making silk pillowcases as an income generating project in Vietnam and education skill training is the focus for youth in Cambodia.
- **Jonathan and Terah Park**, missionaries in Vietnam will be visiting our Virginia Churches in the fall. If you are interested in hosting them to hear their story and discover new opportunities, contact POH chair, Rev. Nancy Robinson (nancyrobinson@vaumc.org or 804-873-1487 text) for more information.
- During **September** churches in the Virginia Annual Conference are invited to take up a special offering in support of POH...choose the Sunday that would work best for you and send your gift to the conference office marked for POH. You may choose one of the following areas: Brazil, Mozambique, Haiti, Cambodia, Vietnam or Native American Ministries or POH general fund. Thank you in advance! If you would like a speaker to come to your church contact Rev. Nancy Robinson – we have many stories to share.
- Love in action is contagious. Be blessed and full of grace as we partner and get to know each other.

Treasurer



Apportionment Overview

The Conference apportionment collection percentage through June 30 was 37.2%, up from 33.8% during the same period last year. This is the second consecutive positive quarter.

The 2027 Apportionments are being calculated, and the preliminary apportionments were sent to the districts by the end of July.



**2026 Second
Quarter
apportionment
collection**



**Q2 2026 increase
over Q2 2025
apportionments**

Treasurer



Francis Asbury Grant Fund

The Council on Finance and Administration has created the Francis Asbury Grant Fund with the Virginia United Methodist Foundation to support clergy education. The Foundation, Office of Clergy Excellence and the Board of Ordained Ministry will partner to administer the Fund. The source of the funds was the former Francis Asbury Education Fund held at the General Board of Higher Education which ended its student loan program. The initial contribution to the fund is \$1,000,000. If you would like to support this work with a donation or legacy gift, please contact the Foundation. (vaumfoundation.org)

Annual Conference

The 2026 Annual Conference approved a \$16,179,000 Budget for 2027 which is \$73,000 (.5%) higher than the 2026 Budget. The Budget includes a new \$40,000 line item for local churches to help cover the costs of pulpit supply for the period a clergy is out on parental leave. Please contact your district superintendent if your pastor goes on parental leave.

The Annual Conference also approved the Conference to administer clergy payroll for local churches beginning in 2027. There is no charge to the local church for this service. Churches may elect out of having the Conference administer payroll if they have a paid professional staff person or are using a payroll service such as ADP or Paychex. Additional details will be provided to clergy and churches from the Conference in the next several weeks.

Treasurer



Consumer Price Index and Budgeting

The 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index for June 2026 was 3.5%. This indicates that on average consumer prices were 3.5% higher than they were last June. Housing, energy, and food costs all remain over 3.0%. Finance committees should take this into account as they budget for salaries, clergy housing costs, utilities, and other expenses as well as be aware of how this may impact the donors who are giving to the church. For expenses such as utilities and insurance, be prepared for expenses to increase closer to 8-12% year over year.

Virginia Employment Laws Affecting Churches (2026–2029)

The 2026 Virginia General Assembly enacted several significant employment laws that may affect local churches and other religious organizations, particularly those employing lay staff such as office administrators, preschool employees, childcare workers, musicians, custodians, and other non-clergy personnel. While constitutional protections and the ministerial exception may apply to ordained clergy in certain circumstances, churches should review these new laws carefully to determine how they apply to their workforce.

Treasurer



Pay Transparency (HB 636 / SB 215) – effective July 1, 2026

Employers must generally include a good-faith salary or wage range in public and internal job postings and may no longer ask applicants about their salary history or rely on that information when making hiring decisions. Churches should review hiring practices for lay employee positions and update employment applications, interview guides, and job posting templates.

Worker Classification and Wage Enforcement (HB 238) – effective July 1, 2026

This law strengthens worker classification requirements and expands wage payment enforcement. Churches should ensure that employees and independent contractors are properly classified and that payroll practices comply with Virginia law.

Paid Sick Leave (HB 5 / SB 199) – effective July 1, 2027, January 1, 2028, and January 1, 2029

Virginia will phase in a statewide paid sick leave requirement based on employer size. Covered employers must provide paid sick leave that employees may use for their own illness, preventive care, qualifying family members, and certain safety-related reasons. Churches should begin reviewing leave policies well before their applicable compliance date.

Paid Family & Medical Leave Insurance (HB 1207 / SB 2)

This law establishes a state-administered paid family and medical leave insurance program. Although the law became effective on **July 1, 2026**, the Virginia Employment Commission will establish payroll contribution rates in **2027**, payroll contributions begin **April 1, 2028**, and employee benefits become available **December 1, 2028**. Churches should monitor future guidance to determine how the program applies to clergy and lay employees and prepare for payroll and policy changes if applicable.

Church leaders are encouraged to review employee handbooks, hiring procedures, compensation practices, and leave policies over the next several years. Because churches often employ both clergy and lay staff, application of these laws may differ depending on an employee's role and applicable religious exemptions. When questions arise, consult conference leadership or qualified legal counsel familiar with employment law and religious organizations.

Other Offices

VUMPI

- As was approved at Annual Conference in June, participant contributions for clergy enrolled in the Conference-sponsored health plans will be increasing in 2027. Contributions for clergy only, clergy + child(ren) and clergy + spouse enrollment tiers are increasing by 5%, while contributions for the clergy + family tier are increasing by 10%. Church contributions to the Conference-sponsored health plans, which are paid via the health plan direct bill, will be unchanged in 2027. VUMPI is anticipating the likelihood of utilizing financial reserves to cover a portion of health plan costs in 2027.
- VUMPI sponsored a cohort of the Clergy Health Institute 10-week virtual health coaching program for Virginia Conference clergy, and in June VUMPI staff presented a session focused on financial wellness for the program.
- In partnership with the Virginia United Methodist Foundation, VUMPI conducted a session of Saving Grace for Virginia Conference clergy from April to June. Developed by Wespath, 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. An additional Saving Grace session is anticipated for the fall of 2026.



Other Offices

FOUNDATION

How the Foundation Equips Churches to Build Cycles of Generosity

The Foundation can help your church create a more sustainable financial future through socially responsible investing, lending, planned giving guidance and grants. At this year's Annual Conference, we enjoyed connecting with delegates at our booth, offering clergy a special interest rate on certificates, as well as a \$500 savings on closing costs for facility improvement or construction loans for churches.

Our goal is to enable your church to serve members and your community even more effectively!

In place of swag, we donated \$250 each to four ministries within the VAUMC:

- [Belmont Food Pantry](#)
- [Just Neighbors](#)
- [Rising Hope UMC](#)
- [Westview on the James Camp](#)

It was an honor to share how the Foundation and Development Company can serve churches during the Thursday afternoon plenary session. Additionally, the Foundation team offered insights into increased financial stability to 43 attendees during our Lunch-and-Learn on Friday. The presentation was entitled "Slump to Bump – Reframing Seasonal Volatility into Visionary Generosity." Participants asked excellent questions about how churches can encourage giving as they support members through ministry. Throughout the remainder of 2026, the Foundation is expanding our training curriculum through [monthly webinars](#).



The Foundation has also just launched the [Foundry Endowment](#), a new philanthropic and development endowment designed to help United Methodist churches and ministries build sustainable financial resources for generations to come. The Foundry Endowment is a modern philanthropic engine empowering donors to create lasting and faithful impact in their communities through strategic, responsive grantmaking. Building on the Foundation's long history of supporting churches and ministries, the endowment creates new opportunities for donors to invest in meaningful good and strengthen the future of United Methodist ministry across Virginia.

Share the good news and [visit our new website](#) to build meaningful good!

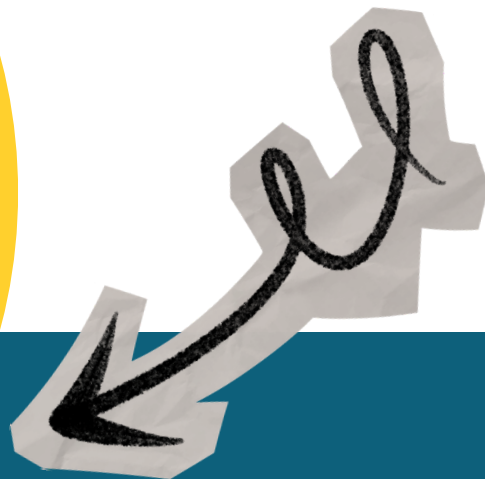
Coastal Virginia District

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Our Coastal Virginia District leadership team met this spring to develop goals that accompany our district's core values. Our goals are:
 - Goal: Train the Coastal Virginia District to become effective servants and fruitful churches. We hope for as many of our churches as possible to have a strategic plan or SMART goals. **Rev. Stephanie Parker and Rev. Victor Drummond** would love to help your church create and implement goals. Please reach out to them or the district office to learn more.
 - Goal: Empower regional community cohorts to carry out the Coastal Virginia District Mission. The hope is for each regional community cohort to have 2 shared initiatives.
 - Goal: Enhance and align communication to enable the Coastal Virginia District Mission, Vision, and core values. As part of this goal, we will rebuild the Coastal Virginia District website to be more user-friendly.



We enjoyed gathering with lay and clergy members during Annual Conference. This year, we provided buttons with our district logo so members could easily find other churches in our district. We had a great social gathering on June 18 and look forward to gathering in Harrisonburg again next year.



Living Waters District

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Living Waters District had a strong second quarter. In April, our Missions & Outreach Team awarded \$10,000 to **Trinity UMC in Chesterfield** for its Homes For All ministry — one of the most effective outreach programs in our conference.
- We also held our second CR/CC gathering of the year, supporting clergy in Cross-Cultural and Cross-Racial appointments, and hosted our Annual Farewell Banquet in May for those transitioning to new appointments.
- This year we collected a record number of kits and buckets districtwide. We've established **Blandford UMC** as our kit storage site — a strategic location where I-95, I-85, and I-295 converge, making distribution more efficient.
- Finally, we kept up our yearly tradition with the Living Waters Annual Conference Fellowship at a Harrisonburg Turks baseball game.



Mission Rivers District

- This spring, Mission Rivers District churches welcomed their communities at Easter, celebrated confirmations and graduations, and saw many students apply for and receive district scholarships to support the next step in their journey.
- The season also brought clergy together around shared Wesleyan teaching and celebration, culminating at Annual Conference 2026, where clergy and lay leaders from across the district gathered for worship and connection. Earlier in the spring, clergy toured Fort Monroe in Hampton, walking Point Comfort, where the earliest documented enslaved Africans arrived in Virginia in 1619, and reflecting on the site's role in the Civil War. Weeks later, district clergy and families gathered for fellowship at a Richmond Flying Squirrels game, continuing to build and foster community.
- The season also brought reason to celebrate one of the district's own. **Kait Priest**, a certified candidate and current student at Duke Divinity School, was named a 2026 Theological Intern with the General Board of Church and Society, a sign of the kind of bold leaders Mission Rivers continues to raise up.
- Looking ahead, the district carries this spirit of Wesleyan teaching and celebration into the 2026/2027 conference year with a new theme: "Rooted in Revival." The first half of the year invites the district to linger with its Wesleyan history and theological grounding, before shifting to an outward focus on how that spirit takes root in local communities. Clergy and laity alike will have new ways to connect along the way, including book clubs, additional clergy gatherings, and time with poet Laura Martin. Those nearing retirement can look forward to a pre-retirement seminar with **John Fuller** this fall. And as always, the district is thrilled to welcome new folks into the fold, continuing to be bold change agents in the community through Christ's love.



ROOTED
in Revival

Mountain View District

MOUNTAIN VIEW DISTRICT CHURCHES MAKE A GLOBAL IMPACT

Making an impact on local food insecurity is a very high value for the congregations in the Mountain View District (MVD). On Saturday April 11, 250 representatives from nearly half of our 72 churches became “One in Mission Together” in a hands-on mission experience in three locations to make a global impact on food insecurity. Together we packed a total of 30,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger! Special thanks to our host churches **Heritage, Redwood, and First UMC Martinsville**.

Kits for Conference

MVD churches continued their commitment to making a global impact by preparing a total of 1,700 UMCOR Kits for Conference. Big thanks to **Lane Memorial, Chestnut Hill, and Smith Memorial UMC** for serving as collection sites.



Northern Virginia District

HIGHLIGHTS

Grains of Hope Launch

On June 30, we celebrated the official launch of **Grains of Hope**, an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit rooted in mission to others. Grains launched after operating for 26 years as the **Community of Faith UMC** food pantry. The transition marks a significant milestone for one of western Fairfax County's most trusted sources of food support, volunteer engagement, and community care.

Grains of Hope will nourish, inform, and connect families through weekly food distribution, case management, and year-round social support. With only about 10% of families served receiving government benefits, the organization helps fill a critical gap for working families, seniors, and neighbors. **Pastor Abi Foerster** of Community of Faith called the launch a new chapter that “allows us to deepen our partnerships, expand our reach, and continue serving with dignity and joy.”

More than 400 hundred volunteers power the weekly effort, and Grains also collaborates with more than 17 grocery stores, restaurants, corporations, and faith partners to ensure a steady supply of fresh food and essential items for local families. Learn more about [Grains of Hope](#).

Rising Hope Grant

We are proud to announce a grant of \$20,000 made to **Rising Hope Mission Church in Alexandria**. The payment will help Rising Hope pay off its mortgage, freeing up church resources for more ministry opportunities. Rising Hope offers the community assistance through their Food Pantry, Rising Hope kitchen, Hope Closet, Hypothermia Shelter, and countless other need-based services.

Led by **Pastor Kameron Wilds**, Rising Hope reflects the work of the Kingdom of God and is a bright star in the Northern Virginia area. Learn more about [Rising Hope's ministry](#).



Shenandoah River District

Ministry never pauses across the Shenandoah River District, but this spring carried a special joy. For one week this June, Harrisonburg became the front porch of our Annual Conference, and hosting this year's Annual Conference was the heartbeat of our spring.

More than 150 volunteers gave their time to make AC2026 possible, directing traffic, greeting guests, ushering, and extending hospitality at every turn. Area churches opened their doors for meals and gatherings, neighboring districts stepped in to recruit and support volunteers, and countless others covered the week in prayer. What we have seen in the valley was a living picture of what it means to be connectional.

Alongside the hosting effort, SRD congregations delivered more than 2,500 Kits for Conference. **1,691 health kits, 157 cleaning kits (flood buckets), and 845 feminine hygiene kits were collected**, and these resources will reach neighbors in need across the connection.

From those who parked cars to those who prayed without ceasing, the Shenandoah River District showed what it looks like when a community serves together. And even amid the busy preparations, ministry continued quietly and faithfully in our congregations. In the spotlight and in ordinary places alike, God is good. And for all of it, we give our thanks.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
2026



Valley Ridge District

- The Wesleyan movement just celebrated at Annual Conference, the movement of Methodism captured in our past, lived in our present, and pointed toward our future, was alive and well throughout the second quarter in the Valley Ridge District.
- After five years of faithful service, **Rev. Dr. Dale White** retired in July as Director of Congregational Excellence, leaving behind a legacy grounded in Wesleyan grace and the conviction that ministry happens everywhere, from the pulpit to the highway. Small rural churches across the district have found their own ways to live that out. **Bethel UMC in Craig County** is just one example, welcoming dozens of Canadian cyclists passing through with prayer and hospitality week after week.
- Ministry took on a new shape in Roanoke, too, where **Trinity Commons** opened its doors. Restoration Housing transformed the 1922 Sunday School Annex of Trinity UMC into 15 affordable apartments for seniors, with seven units reserved as Permanent Supportive Housing for seniors transitioning out of homelessness. The 1903 Sanctuary was preserved as a gathering space. What was once a church building, home for years to a daycare, after-school programs, and community outreach, has become new proof that endings are rarely the whole story.
- The district's lay leadership also continues to grow and transform. Valley Ridge trained more than 50 lay servants this year, a ministry that continues to form laity and put more trained, confident lay servants into the classrooms and pulpits every season.
- Our clergy carried their own spirit of renewal into their work and gatherings. In April, district clergy met at **St. Mark's in Daleville** for the final session of their "Celebration of our Wesleyan Roots" programming, closing the series with a focus on Worship with Charles Wesley.
- Now, with **Rev. Alan Combs** settling in as District Superintendent, and **Paige Swaim-Presley** stepping into the role of Director of Congregational Excellence, Valley Ridge looks ahead with energy, ready to carry that same Wesleyan spirit into the next season.





Upcoming VAUMC Dates

NEXT Q SOURCE (Q3 2026)

Released in October 2026