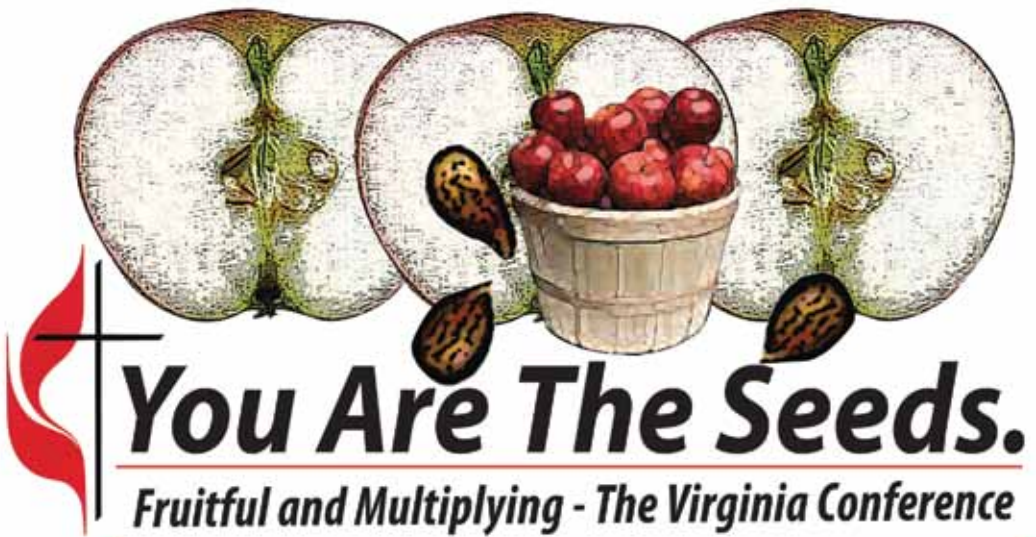


# BOOK OF REPORTS



***You Are The Seeds.***

***Fruitful and Multiplying - The Virginia Conference***

**230th Session  
of the  
Virginia Annual Conference  
The United Methodist Church**

**June 22-24, 2012  
Roanoke, Virginia**

## IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### *Please Read Carefully*

If you are a clergy, diaconal, or lay member of the 2012 Virginia Annual Conference, you should find enclosed, with your *Book of Reports*, your official name badge and registration card. To register, you must bring the registration card with you to the conference session. Name badges will be essential for voting privileges. If you forget your *Book of Reports*, you will need to purchase one at the information table at conference for \$5 per copy.

### PLEASE FOLLOW THE PROCEDURE BELOW:

1. When you arrive at the Roanoke Civic Center, go immediately to one of the registration areas: north side near Gate 11 and the east side near Gates 12 and 1. The main registration and “Troubleshooting” area is in the lobby of the Special Events Area. All clergy, diaconal and lay members may register in the same area.

2. Take the enclosed registration card to the registration area and exchange it for your official conference packet, which will include your plastic name badge holder. Please make sure in advance that you have made any necessary corrections to the information printed on the card.

3. Persons who need special attention regarding registration will be asked to go to the “Troubleshooting” area at the main registration area. Here, name badge corrections, alternate/reserve registrations, and other such situations will be handled. Do not surrender your registration card at the other registration areas if you need help from the troubleshooting area. You will receive your updated name badge, if necessary, and official packet at the troubleshooting table.

4. At the conclusion of the conference, receptacles will be provided to collect the plastic holder of your name badge for reuse at future conference sessions, so please be gentle with its use.

**ALTERNATES AND RESERVES** should go to the troubleshooting area with the entire *Book of Reports* packet, including name badge and registration card of individuals they are replacing. A new badge and registration card will be provided.

### ATTENTION CLERGY AND DIACONAL MINISTERS:

PLEASE NOTE that your registration card should indicate your PRESENT address, but you are asked to correct the card so it lists your FUTURE MAILING ADDRESS, appointment and phone number (i.e., that which will be in effect following this year’s moving date). What appears on this card will become the conference’s official record of your address, to be included in the *2012 Virginia Conference Journal* and *2012 Directory of the Ministry*. You can also provide e-mail addresses to be included in both publications.

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND CONFERENCE** and have changes on the card, please mail your corrected registration card to the *Journal of the Virginia Annual Conference*, P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058, or send your new information via e-mail to <Communications@vaumc.org>.

THE TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH SESSION

## VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The United Methodist Church

Roanoke, Virginia

June 22-24, 2012

## *BOOK OF REPORTS*

The Rev. Marc D. Brown, Director of Connectional Ministries

Edited by

The Office of Connectional Ministries and

Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.

*On the cover: The 2012 Annual Conference theme is “You Are the Seeds.”  
The logo was designed by Richard H. Jenkins.*

## GREETINGS FROM BISHOP KAMMERER

Grace and Peace to you from our risen Lord as we gather in Roanoke at the Civic Center for Annual Conference. Our theme this year is "You are the Seeds." You will notice that we begin on Friday afternoon at 1 p.m. with our Laity and Clergy sessions. With a three-day Annual Conference this year, the schedule will look different from the more traditional format.



Our preachers for the principal worship services all come from within the Virginia Conference. The Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Hundley will preach at the Service of Remembrance. The Rev. Dr. Youtha Hardman-Cromwell will speak on behalf of the Retiring Class. The Rev. David McAllister-Wilson will preach for the Service for the Ordering of Ministry. And I will preach the closing service for the Fixing of the Appointments.

The Annual Conference Offering highlights our partnerships with Methodists in Mozambique and Brazil. It will include a new emphasis on the emerging church in Cambodia. And we will celebrate the work of Shalom Farms in the Richmond District.

I am aware this will be my final time to preside as an active bishop at a session of the Annual Conference. It will be a high privilege for me. I look forward to celebrating with you the good work we have shared together. Seeds have been planted that will be brought to harvest by God's gracious Spirit, in God's own time.

Blessings on you as you come to Annual Conference. Let us be expectant to see what God will do through us for the sake of the world.

In Christ,

*Charlene Kammerer*

Charlene Kammerer,  
Bishop of the Virginia Conference

*Thank you*

CHARLENE P. KAMMERER

BISHOP OF THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE 2004-2012



*Clockwise from top left: Bishop Kammerer hugs Marshall Bailey at 2008 General Conference; a question draws a hearty laugh at UM Day; a Richmond TV reporter interviews the bishop about relations with those of other faiths; Kammerer prays to open a session of the Virginia State Senate.*



*Clockwise from bottom left: A local child gravitates to the bishop during a trip to Brazil; the bishop confers with the Rev. Raymond Wrenn at a past Annual Conference; Kammerer ministers to Richmond flooding victims after Hurricane Gaston in her first week 'on duty' in Virginia.*



## Speakers for 2012 Annual Conference

### A Service of Remembrance

The Rev. Dr. Steve Hundley is the Roanoke District Superintendent. He is a native of Richmond, where he graduated from Varina High School in 1972. He received his BA in Psychology from Randolph-Macon College in 1976. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1980. He returned to the seminary for a Doctor of Ministry degree which he completed in 1985. He is married to Becky Tate and has four children. He served churches in Winchester, Richmond, Hampton, Falls Church and Lynchburg. He was appointed to the Roanoke District as the superintendent in 2005. He also serves on the General Board of Finance and Administration.



### A Service for the Ordering of Ministry

David McAllister-Wilson received a Bachelor of Arts in History from California State University, Northridge, in 1983. He earned his Master of Divinity degree in 1988 and Doctor of Ministry degree in 2001 from Wesley. An ordained elder in the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, McAllister-Wilson's main areas of interest are revitalizing the mainline Protestant church and excellence in church leadership. McAllister-Wilson wrote about the training and development of effective church leaders in a chapter of Christian Reflections on the Leadership Challenge, edited by James Kouzes and Barry Posner. He also contributed a chapter to A Handbook for Seminary Presidents, edited by G. Douglass Lewis and Lovett H. Weems, Jr., of Wesley's Lewis Center for Church Leadership. His wife, the Rev. Drema McAllister-Wilson, is minister of Congregational Care at Metropolitan UMC in Washington.



### The Recognition of 2012 Retirees

The Rev. Dr. Youtha Hardman-Cromwell is Assistant Dean at Wesley Seminary at Mount Vernon Square in Washington, D.C. Youtha is a pioneer in bringing social justice issues to parish ministry. A member of Trinity UMC in the Alexandria District, she is a prophetic voice for gender justice, racial justice, and inclusiveness for persons of all sexual orientations. She teaches seminarians at both Wesley and Howard University School of Divinity, from which she received one of her two Masters degrees; the other came from Troy State. Her undergraduate degree is from George Washington University. She has an EdS from the University of Virginia and a PhD from The American University in Washington. She is married to Oliver Cromwell, a retired public affairs official. They have four adult children and one grandchild. She serves on the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and is chair of the Order of Elders.



## 2012 Virginia Annual Conference

Virginia Annual Conference

June 22 – 24, 2012

Civic Center

Roanoke, Virginia

Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer, Presiding

*This year's Annual Conference schedule was shortened to Friday afternoon through Sunday morning by vote of the 2010 Annual Conference for stewardship purposes of the conference, districts, churches and conference members. To assist with the shorter agenda, only reports requiring approval or reports regarding previous action of the Annual Conference will be verbally presented.*

### "You Are the Seeds"

#### Friday Morning, June 22

(Registration 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

10:30 a.m. Annual Conference Planning Committee Meeting  
11:00 a.m. Welcome Lunch for First-Time Appointments

#### Friday Afternoon, June 22

1:00 p.m. Clergy Session ..... Performing Arts Center  
1:00 p.m. Laity Session ..... Civic Center  
3:00 p.m. Call to Order ..... Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer

#### "And Are We Yet Alive"

Prayer ..... Rev. Raymond Fitzhugh Wrenn  
Mr. Dustin Yates

Welcome and Organizing Motions ..... Rev. Stephen Hundley  
Host District Superintendent

Election of ..... Rev. Robert Blinn

Assistant Secretaries

Editor of the Journal

Annual Conference Committees

Rules Committee ..... Rev. Stephen Bray

Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns ..... Rev. Gregory Duncan

Commission on Status and Role of Women ..... Ms. Shannon Sixbey

Report of the Trustees ..... Rev. Sallye Bowen

Approval of Consent Agenda ..... Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer

*(Pending approval of Conference Rules)*

Report of the Cabinet ..... Dr. Brenda J. Biler

Minute Questions

Recognition of New Faith Community ..... Dr. Brenda J. Biler

Recognition of Conference Chancellor

4:45 p.m. Recess for Dinner

### Friday Evening, June 22

7:30 p.m. A Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion.....Rev. Steve Hundley  
9:00 p.m. Rehearsal for Service of Ordering for Ministry

### Saturday Morning, June 23

5:30 a.m. SoSA Potato Drop Mission Project..... Civic Center Parking Lot A  
8:15 a.m. Singing Our Faith  
8:30 a.m. Report of Minutes Committee.....Rev. Susan Cutshaw  
Laity Address.....Ms. Shirley Cauffman  
Election of New Conference Lay Leader.....Mr. Robert Forest  
*Chair, Nominating Committee*  
Recognition of Professional Certification for Local Church Ministry  
Recognition of PAUMCS Certification  
Recognition of Denman Award  
General Conference Report.....Ms. Shirley Cauffman,  
Rev. Tom Berlin  
Endorsement of Virginia Conference Episcopal Nominee  
Initial CFA Report ..... Mr. Jeff Davis  
Election of Boards and Agencies .....Ms. Shirley Cauffman  
Rev. Marc Brown  
Consecration of Conference Leadership.....Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer  
Site Selection Committee Report.....Rev. Doug Geeting  
Celebration of Bishop Charlene Kammerer's ministry ..... Rev. Tom Berlin  
with the Virginia Conference  
11:15 a.m. Worship  
(Annual Conference Offering is taken)  
12:00 Recess for Lunch

*The Roanoke Valley CVB will be providing shuttle service between the Civic Center and the downtown historic Farmers Market for lunch between 11:15 am and 2:15 p.m.*

### Saturday Afternoon, June 23

1:45 p.m. Singing Our Faith  
2:00 p.m. Recognition of Retirees..... Dr. Youtha Hardman-Cromwell  
All Things New - Vital Congregations  
Equitable Compensation Commission ..... Rev. James Sprouse Jr.  
Common Table .....Ms. Shirley Cauffman  
Rev. Marc Brown  
Unfinished Conference Business and Resolutions  
Historical Society Meeting.....Dr. Stephen Mansfield  
5:00 p.m. Recess for Dinner  
5:30 p.m. Musicians' Rehearsal for A Service for the Ordering of Ministry

### Saturday Evening, June 23

7:30 p.m. A Service for the Ordering of Ministry..... Rev. David McAllister-Wilson

### Sunday Morning, June 24

Youth Service Fund Offering accepted at doors  
8:15 a.m. Singing Our Faith  
8:30 a.m. Report of the Minutes Committee.....Rev. Susan Cutshaw  
Board of Pensions Report .....Ms. Betty Forbes  
Report of the Statistician .....Mr. David Dommisie  
Report of the Treasurer .....Mr. David Dommisie  
Report of Council on Finance and Administration ..... Mr. Jeff Davis  
Unfinished Conference Business and Resolutions  
11:15 a.m. Worship .....Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer  
Distribution of the Appointments Edition of the *Advocate*  
Fixing of the Appointments

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

#### Speaking on a Motion and Making a Motion

Many motions important to the Annual Conference operation and program are functional and are voted on as a matter of course. Other motions invite much debate. You may find you desire to speak on a motion or even introduce a motion concerning an issue on the agenda.

The proper way to speak on the floor of Annual Conference is as follows:

- Be recognized by the presiding officer (usually the bishop) by standing at your seat, raising your hand, and holding up the brightly colored half-sheet included in your packet.
- When recognized, move to the microphone designated by the presiding officer.
- Give your name, identify your district, and give the name of your local church.
- If you are making a motion in regard to a report on the floor (being discussed), state the motion with no verbal introduction, state, "If seconded, I would like to speak on it," and then when seconded give your comments and supportive details.

**NOTE: Motions must be written out and turned in to the Secretary, even if not passed or seconded.**

If you are commenting on a report or motion on the floor (being discussed), then state if you speak in favor or opposition to the motion and make your comments (limit five minutes unless a shorter time has been established).

If you desire to make a motion introducing a new issue or concept that is not part of a report presented to the conference, then you must write a "resolution." A resolution is a full statement of your motion written legibly, and submitted to the director of Connectional Ministries by the published deadline for publication in the *Book of Reports*, or for urgent resolutions (defined as those which deal with circumstances arising after the *Book of Reports* deadline) at least 14 days before the beginning of Annual Conference. In this case, you will follow steps 1, 2 and 3 when your resolution is brought to the floor by the Committee on Resolutions or board to which it was referred, if you wish to speak on the issue.

## GUIDELINES FOR THE PARENTS' ROOM AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1. The Parents' Room is provided at the Roanoke Coliseum for parents who need a place to feed or change children while Annual Conference is in session.
2. The Parents' Room is also provided so that restless children may have a place to nap or play for short periods of time while Annual Conference is in session.
3. The facilities where Annual Conference is held are not equipped for child care and the Parents' Room does not meet the high standards of a licensed child care center. It is provided because parents have requested the convenience of a room on site.
4. The Parents' Room is not staffed. No child is to be left in the Parents' Room unattended by the parent or the designated baby-sitter.
5. The Virginia Conference has provided minimal furnishings for the Parents' Room (playpens, cribs, changing tables, rocking chairs, carpet and water). Parents must provide diapers, baby wipes, bottles, and other items as needed.

## STANDING RULES

### STANDING RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE

As Approved by The Virginia Annual Conference at Its Latest Session

The Annual Conference shall elect a Rules Committee as allowed by ¶604 of the *Discipline* and as set forth in ¶V.B.19. of the Standing Rules.

The Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies shall be those published in the *Journal of The Virginia Annual Conference - The United Methodist Church* of the preceding Annual Conference and shall be published in the *Book of Reports* of each Annual Conference.

### I. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

#### A. PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The purpose of the Annual Conference is to make disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.

#### B. THE VISION OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We envision faith communities where all God's people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world.

#### C. MEMBERSHIP

1. Clergy Membership. The clergy membership of the Annual Conference shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, probationary members, associate members, affiliate members, and local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge.

2. Campus Ministries. Campus ministers, chaplains and Wesley Foundation directors shall be included in the conference composition. In districts where United Methodist laypersons serve as campus ministers/directors of Wesley Foundations, they shall be added as district-at-large lay members to the Annual Conference. In districts where United Methodist clergy who are members of the conference serve as chaplains, campus ministers, or directors of Wesley Foundations, the laypersons elected as their balancing counterpart shall be elected from and by either that campus ministry board of directors or the students from that ministry/foundation and their expenses paid by the district. Special consideration shall be given to the inclusion of United Methodist young adults who are active participants in campus ministry.

3. Lay Membership. The lay membership of the conference shall consist of the following (or designated alternate), if lay persons:

- a. a professing member elected by each charge; except that each charge served by more than one clergy member under appointment (including deacons in full connection for whom this is their primary appointment) shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members under appointment.
- b. diaconal ministers;
- c. the active deaconesses and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within

the bounds of the Annual Conference;

- d. the conference president of United Methodist Women;
- e. the conference president of United Methodist Men;
- f. the conference lay leader;
- g. district lay leaders;
- h. the president of the conference young adult organization;
- i. a member of the conference youth organization;
- j. the chair of the conference college student organization;
- k. the conference secretary of Global Ministries;
- l. the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries;
- m. one young person between the ages of 12 and 17 and one young person between

the ages of 18 and 35 from each district, to be selected as set forth in ¶ n. below:

And by Annual Conference formula to equalize the number of lay and clergy membership of the Annual Conference (¶32, *2008 Book of Discipline*) the following, if lay persons:

- n. one additional young person between the ages of 12 and 17 and one additional young person between the ages of 18 and 35 from each district, to be selected by the District Council on Ministries with nomination(s) for the youth members to be received from the District Council on Youth Ministries and nomination(s) for the young adults to be received from the District Coordinator of Higher Education Ministries, college chaplain(s) and campus minister(s) if such persons exist in the district;
- o. the conference Treasurer;
- p. the chancellor(s) of the conference;
- q. the director of Connectional Ministries
- r. lay members of general boards, councils and commissions, and lay members who serve on agencies related to the general church and are mandated by the *Discipline* because of their office to serve on related conference agencies, who are members of such as of Aug. 31 of the previous year;

s. district presidents of United Methodist Men;

t. district presidents of United Methodist Women;

u. the president or chairperson of the following conference agencies: Commission on Archives and History; Board of Church and Society; Church Development Team; Commission on Disabilities; Board of Discipleship; Commission on Equitable Compensation; Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; Council on Finance and Administration; Board of Global Ministries; Board of Higher Education Ministries; Board of Ordained Ministry; Resolutions Committee; Rules Committee; Site Selection Committee; Commission on Status and Role of Women; Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.; Trustees of the Virginia Annual Conference, Inc.; Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, Inc.; Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.; and Virginia United Methodist Foundation.

v. Additional lay members to be elected by the lay members of the district conference of each district in such numbers as to provide that the total number of lay members from that district shall bear the same ratio to the total lay membership of the conference as the church membership of that district bears to the total church membership of the Annual Conference. Each district conference shall also elect alternates to those elected under this paragraph in number to equal at least one-third of the numbers provided under this subparagraph. The computations that form the basis for the determination of the additional lay membership to be elected by each district hereunder shall be based on the various membership categories as of the adjournment of the preceding Annual Conference. In making these computations, a lay person shall not be counted in more than one membership position. The director of Connectional Ministries shall furnish to the bishop by Sept. 1 of each year the totals of each category of members together with the number of additional lay members to be elected by each district.

w. All lay members of the Annual Conference shall conform to the requirements for membership of the *2008 Book of Discipline* in ¶602.4.

4. Members of Next Succeeding Annual Conference. By the adoption of Paragraphs 3. d-u,

all lay persons holding the positions enumerated in those subparagraphs are elected as lay members of the next succeeding Annual Conference. In the event of a change in the persons holding a position in ¶I.C.3. between sessions of the Annual Conference, the person holding the position at the time of the next succeeding Annual Conference shall be the member of the Annual Conference.

5. Expenses of attending Annual Conference shall be born as follows:

a. By the districts:

- i. two young persons between the ages of 12-17;
- ii. two young persons between the ages of 18-35;
- iii. the district lay leaders;
- iv. the district president of the United Methodist Men;
- v. the district president of the United Methodist Women;
- vi. additional district members at large;

b. By the Annual Conference:

- i. the director of Connectional Ministries
- ii. the director of Lay Speaking Ministries;
- iii. the president of the conference young adult organization;
- iv. a member of the conference youth organization;
- v. the conference Treasurer;
- vi. the conference chancellor(s);
- vii. lay members of general boards, councils and commissions, and lay

members who serve on agencies related to the general church and are mandated by the Discipline because of their office to serve on related Annual Conference agencies, who are members of such as of August 31 of the previous year;

- viii. the chair of the conference college student organization;
- ix. the chair of the Resolutions Committee

c. By Annual Conference boards or agencies:

- i. the conference Lay Leader
- ii. the conference president of the United Methodist Men;
- iii. the conference president of the United Methodist Women;
- iv. the conference Secretary of Global Ministries
- v. the president or chairperson, of the following conference agencies:

Commission on Archives and History; Board of Church and Society; Church Development Team; Commission on Disabilities; Board of Discipleship; Commission on Equitable Compensation; Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; Council on Finance and Administration; United Methodist Foundation; Board of Global Ministries; Board of Higher Education Ministries; Board of Ordained Ministry; Rules Committee; Site Selection Committee; Commission on Status and Role of Women; Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.; Trustees of the Virginia Annual Conference, Inc.; Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, Inc.; and Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.

6. Right to Floor and Right to Vote. With the exception of probationary members, associate members and local pastors serving full-time and part-time appointments, those members of the conference listed in ¶¶I.C.1., 2., and 3. shall be full members of the conference with the right to the floor and the right to vote. Probationary members, associate members, and local pastors serving full-time and part-time appointments have the right to the floor and the right to vote on all matters except the following:

- a. Constitutional amendments.
- b. Election of delegates to the General Conference and the jurisdictional conference.
- c. Matters of ordination, character and conference relations of clergy. These shall be the sole responsibility of clergy members in full connection.

7. Roll of Conference. The roll of the conference shall be the official registration signed by the members of the conference.

8. Privilege of Floor Without Vote. The following shall be seated in the Annual Conference and shall be given the privilege of the floor without vote: official representatives from other

denominations, especially from member churches of Churches Uniting In Christ, invited by the conference; missionaries regularly assigned by the General Board of Global Ministries and serving within the bounds of the conference; lay missionaries regularly appointed by the General Board of Global Ministries in nations other than the United States and certified lay missionaries from nations other than the United States serving within the bounds of the conference (2008 Book of Discipline ¶602.9).

#### D. ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFICIALS

1. The Presiding Officer. The resident bishop of the conference shall preside at all sessions of the Annual Conference but shall have the privilege of appointing a presiding officer to preside in his or her stead in the event of illness or temporary absence from the Annual Conference floor.

2. Annual Conference Secretary. The secretary of the Annual Conference shall be elected quadrennially by the Annual Conference upon nominations arising from the floor at Annual Conference following each regular General Conference of The United Methodist Church. In the event a vacancy occurs between sessions of the Annual Conference, the bishop, after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session.

3. Assistant Secretaries. The secretary shall annually nominate a sufficient number of assistant secretaries who shall be elected by the Annual Conference to handle properly the work of the Annual Conference.

4. Treasurer. The Annual Conference Treasurer shall be nominated by the Council on Finance and Administration. He or she shall be elected by the Annual Conference at the first session of the Annual Conference following the regular General Conference. He or she shall be elected for the quadrennium or until his or her successor has been elected and qualifies. If a vacancy should occur during the quadrennium, the Council on Finance and Administration shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the Annual Conference.

5. Statistician. The Annual Conference statistician shall be elected by the Annual Conference on nomination by the Cabinet at the Annual Conference following each regular General Conference of The United Methodist Church. In the event a vacancy occurs between sessions of the Annual Conference, the Bishop, after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session of the Annual Conference.

6. Assistant Statisticians. The Annual Conference statistician shall annually nominate a sufficient number of assistant statisticians who shall be elected by the Annual Conference for the Annual Conference year.

7. Editor of the *Journal*. The Annual Conference Secretary shall nominate annually the editor of the conference *Journal*, who shall be elected by the Annual Conference for the next calendar year. He or she shall be responsible for editing and printing the *Journal of the Virginia Annual Conference* and shall be amenable to the conference secretary.

8. Conference Parliamentarian. The bishop may appoint a conference parliamentarian whose duty shall be to advise and counsel concerning rules of order and procedure.

#### E. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

1. The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team: There shall be a Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. The team shall meet at least quarterly. The director of Connectional Ministries and the Conference Lay Leader shall serve as co-chairs. The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall consist of 20 members in addition to the co-chairs. Two members (one clergy, one lay) shall be appointed by the bishop to ensure appropriate age, ethnic and gender representation on the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. The Bishop will make replacement appointments in a manner that continues to ensure appropriate age, ethnic and gender representation and in a manner that maintains the clergy/laity balance on the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. Of the remaining 18 members, nine shall be clergy and nine shall be lay. Each district of the Virginia Conference shall be represented. Representatives of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the Commission on



Disabilities, and the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy shall monitor and have voice at these meetings.

All persons shall serve terms of four years, and no person shall serve for more than four consecutive years. As terms of district representatives expire, each District Nominations Facilitation Committee will name one replacement individual to serve on the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team, clergy to replace lay, lay to replace clergy. In the event that a member moves from the district, resigns, or dies during his/her term, a replacement shall be selected in the manner which was applicable to the departing member, with the replacement only serving until the end of the original term.

Each District Nominations Facilitation Committee shall designate one of its members as an alternate to its District Representative on the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.

2. District Nominations Facilitation Committee. There shall be on each district a Nominations Facilitation Committee composed of the District Superintendent as chair; the district lay leader; president of United Methodist Men; president of United Methodist Women; a representative of United Methodist Youth; a college chaplain or a campus minister (applies only to districts with Wesley Foundation or ecumenical campus ministry programs), the district representative to the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team, plus one to three persons (lay and clergy) elected by the district Council on Ministries. The committee shall meet on the call of the chair at least twice a year between Annual Conference and March 1. The committee shall develop and maintain a talent bank of lay and clergy persons from the district who could be qualified nominees for the various boards and agencies of the Annual Conference. The committee shall prepare a profile on each person nominated and, upon having a person nominated to a board or agency of the conference, will provide a copy of that profile, including address and phone number, conference boards or agencies the individual is already serving, and the person's willingness to serve, to the co-chairs of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.

3. Information to Be Furnished to Each District Nominations Facilitation Committee. Each board, council, commission and committee of the Annual Conference shall furnish to the co-chairs of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team on a timely basis for the use of the District Nominations Facilitation Committees:

- a. A summary of its responsibilities and the specific division/committee for which a vacancy exists;
- b. A list of the gifts and talents desired;
- c. Length of service expected;
- d. Demographic information about its current makeup (e.g., number of men, women, ethnic representation, district representation, etc.); and
- e. Schedule of times and locations of its meetings during the year.

It may also suggest names and profiles to the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team through its co-chairs.

4. When Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team Should Make Nominations. The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall annually or quadrennially, as set forth by disciplinary provision or Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies, nominate the membership of the boards, councils, commissions, and committees of the conference. Nominees for boards and other agencies shall be published in the *Book of Reports*.

5. Removal Due to Absences. Any member of any board, council, commission or committee who is absent from two meetings of such board, council, commission or committee without excuse, or from three consecutive agency meetings for any reason, shall automatically cease to be a member of such board, council, commission or committee. The secretary of each board, council, commission or committee shall notify the co-chairs of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team of vacancies. Any vacancy shall be filled by action of the board, council, commission or committee until the next Annual Conference session, at which time the conference shall fill the vacancy.

6. Request at Annual Charge Conferences for Names to be Given to District Nominations Facilitation Committee. At each annual charge conference the elder presiding at the charge conference shall ask if the Lay Leadership Committee has any names to recommend for conference boards, councils, commissions or committees. Such names shall be given to the district Nominations Facilitation Committee.

7. Multicultural Inclusiveness. The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall strive to insure multicultural inclusiveness.

8. Normal Term Of Service Is Four Years. Unless otherwise specified in these rules or in the *Book of Discipline*, a person elected to a board, council, commission or committee of the conference is elected for a four-year term of service and is eligible for re-election to an additional four-year term. However, if one is first elected to fill an unexpired term of two years or less, that person is eligible for re-election to two full terms. A person completing two consecutive full terms is eligible for re-election to that agency after an interim of one year. In the case of a board or agency with an eight-year term, members elected to fill unexpired terms of three years or less shall be eligible for re-election to one full term of eight years. Program boards and agencies other than the Board of Ordained Ministry may co-opt specific persons for specific projects for short periods of time as consultants, without vote. Any combination of continuous service as either a regular or co-opted member shall count on the eight-year time limit for consecutive service. The term of office of members of conference boards and agencies shall begin with the adjournment of the Annual Conference at which said members are elected and shall extend until their successors are elected.

9. Members of general boards or agencies shall be members *ex officio* of the corresponding conference board or agency.

10. Nomination or Election to Only One Board, Council, Commission, or Standing Committee with Limited Exceptions. No person is eligible for nomination, election, or interim appointment to more than one board, council, commission, or standing committee, except where permitted by the Discipline and/or conference structure.

11. District Superintendent Not Eligible to be Chairperson or President of Board, Council, Commission, or Standing Committee. No district superintendent shall be eligible to serve as a chairperson or president of any board, council, commission, or committee of the conference. The bishop may appoint a representative of the Cabinet to any board, council, commission, or committee which is not program related of which a member of the Cabinet is not already an elected member. The appointment of district superintendents to boards, councils, commissions, or committees which are program related shall be made annually.

12. Officers of Quadrennially Elected Boards, Councils, Commissions or Committees. Officers of boards, councils, commissions, and committees whose members are required to be elected quadrennially shall be elected by the representative agency at the session of the Annual Conference at which new members are elected or within ninety days after adjournment. Nominations shall come from a nominating committee appointed by the outgoing president of the agency and/or from the floor. The organizational or first meeting of each agency shall be convened by a person designated by the Bishop.

13. Officers of Other Boards, Councils, Commissions and Committees. Officers of other boards, councils, commissions and committees shall be elected by the representative agency at the agency's last regular meeting prior to each Annual Conference. Nominations shall come from a nominating committee appointed by the outgoing president of the agency and/or from the floor.

14. Resolutions Committee. There shall be a Resolutions Committee of five persons elected annually by the conference upon nomination by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.

15. Tellers. For those sessions of the Annual Conference where there is no election of delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference, the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall appoint a chief teller, who shall be ineligible to serve again for a quadrennium. It shall additionally appoint a team of tellers composed of two persons, one clergy and one lay, from each district. Each time a count vote is called for in



the Annual Conference session, the chief teller shall have the tellers ready to count the vote, having previously trained them to accurately and efficiently perform their duties.

## **II. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS AND PROPOSALS**

### **A. REPORTS**

1. Submission of Annual Reports and Mailing of *Book of Reports*. Agencies shall submit annual reports to the designated person before the date set annually by the Common Table for Church Vitality. The director of Connectional Ministries shall mail the *Book of Reports* to each clergy and lay member of Annual Conference at least 30 days before the opening session of Annual Conference, printing and mailing at conference expense.

2. Reporting At Annual Conference. For reports printed in the *Book of Reports*, verbal introductions shall not exceed one minute, and there shall be no further reading of recommendations or resolutions, unless requested for clarification or requested by a majority vote of the Annual Conference.

3. Amendments to be Submitted in Writing. Persons proposing amendments to any report must submit them in writing to the secretary upon presentation to the Annual Conference.

4. Submission of New Reports, Changes, or Additions to Printed Report. Persons proposing new reports, changes or additions to the printed report of an agency in the *Book of Reports* must submit them in writing for delivery to members of the Annual Conference at the opening session, but not to be considered by the Annual Conference before the morning session of the second day of Annual Conference.

5. Presiding Officer of Agency giving Report has Privilege of Floor, without Vote, for that Report. When the Annual Conference has before it the report of any agency, or a matter concerning any agency, the presiding officer of that group, if not a member of the conference, shall have the privilege of the floor, without vote, for that report.

### **B. RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolutions. Resolutions to be presented to the Annual Conference shall be submitted to the director of Connectional Ministries by the due date for the publication of the *Book of Reports*. The author or originating agency must be identified if other than the submitter(s) of the resolution.

2. Urgent Resolutions. Urgent resolutions regarding circumstances arising after the due date for publication of the *Book of Reports* shall be submitted at least 14 days prior to the opening session of Annual Conference to the Director of Connectional Ministries to be considered emergency resolutions and, if so considered, are to be distributed via all conference e-mail groups and provided in writing to the members of the Annual Conference at the time of registration.

3. Referring Resolutions, Response of Agency, Addressing, and Voting on Resolutions. The director of Connectional Ministries shall refer resolutions related to the work of an Annual Conference agency to that agency for consideration and report at Annual Conference with that agency's scheduled report, or such other appropriate time as may be determined by the presiding officer or by the vote of the Annual Conference. The chair of such agency shall have a maximum of two minutes to present the recommendation of the agency to Annual Conference. The member of Annual Conference who has signed the resolution shall have a maximum of five minutes to address the resolution. The resolution shall then be subject to floor debate and action. Voting on resolutions will be on the resolution itself, not on a recommendation of concurrence or non-concurrence by the agency. After floor debate the chair of the conference agency shall have a maximum of two minutes to address the Annual Conference immediately prior to vote on a resolution. In the event the director of Connectional Ministries has not referred a resolution to another agency for consideration, it shall be referred to the Resolutions Committee.

4. Annual Conference Will Vote on the Action to be Taken in the Resolution. Persons proposing resolutions may submit documentation, rationale and support with the resolution, but the Annual Conference will vote only on the resolution, so that the "whereas" or preamble language of a resolution will not become part of the conference minutes or quoted in recitals

of conference action.

### **C. PROPOSALS REQUIRING PUBLICATION OF MATERIALS**

Proposed Annual Conference action that includes publication or dissemination of information in the *Virginia Advocate* or other media shall be referred to the Print Media Committee of Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc., for its consideration and report on the proposed action, including the financial consequences, prior to conference action. The committee may act through its chairperson, the *Advocate* editor, or other representatives to make its report and recommendation.

### **D. PROPOSALS REQUIRING FUNDING**

Proposals or amendments which may require expenditure of funds, which have not been considered by the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA), shall be referred to CFA for its consideration and recommendation prior to final Annual Conference action.

### **E. PROPOSALS REQUIRING ADDITION TO AGENDA**

During the first business session of Annual Conference, the agenda shall include time to introduce items in addition to the printed agenda. Any such items not referred to conference agencies under the preceding paragraphs shall be referred to the Rules Committee for its consideration and recommendation prior to adjournment of Annual Conference.

## **III. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO GENERAL CONFERENCE AND THE JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE**

### **A. AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH**

We are an inclusive church. We desire to have a delegation that will capably represent the Annual Conference. The delegation should be representative of the Annual Conference considering such factors as sex, age, race, disability, ethnic background, economic conditions and geographical locations.

### **B. ELECTION PROCEDURES**

Clergy and lay delegates to General Conference and the Jurisdictional Conference shall be elected in a fair and open process (NOTE: to conform to Constitutional Amendment I ¶13) at the session of the Annual Conference held in the calendar year preceding the session of General Conference.

1. Special Sessions. Clergy and lay delegates elected to the preceding General Conference and the Jurisdictional Conference shall be the delegates to special sessions of the respective conferences.

2. Number of Delegates. The number of clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be that number of delegates to such conferences respectively as furnished by the secretary of the General Conference.

3. Election of General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates. The number of General Conference delegates authorized by the secretary of the General Conference shall be first elected, followed by balloting on the authorized number of the jurisdictional conference delegates who shall be reserves to General Conference in the order of their election. After the authorized numbers of the jurisdictional conference delegates have been elected, 10 clergy and 10 lay reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference shall be elected on a single ballot with the 10 persons receiving the greatest number of votes in each category being elected in the order of the number of votes received.

4. Speeches/Printed Materials. No speeches may be made or printed materials distributed at the site of the Annual Conference on behalf of any nominee or write-in candidate.

### **C. CLERGY NOMINATIONS**

At the opening session of the Annual Conference, there shall be a nominating ballot for clergy nominees for election as delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference. Each clergy member in full connection (active and retired) shall be entitled to vote for clergy delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference. Probationary and associate members and local pastors shall not vote. Each clergy member entitled to vote may nominate up to the total number of clergy delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference to be elected, not including reserves to jurisdictional conference.

This ballot shall be counted and the 200 persons receiving the most votes shall be the clergy nominees for General Conference and the jurisdictional conference, provided, however, in case of a tie vote for one of the last several places on the nominating list, if the names of those tied for a position when added to the names of those receiving more votes would increase the list to more than 200 names, then the list of nominees shall terminate with the name of the person immediately ahead of the position for which there was a tie. On all future ballots, balloting shall be restricted to the names of those clergy nominated by the nominating ballot.

#### D. LAY NOMINATIONS FROM DISTRICTS AND AGENCIES

1. Lay Nominations. Nominations for lay delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be made by the lay members of the district conference of each district from names submitted by the District Council on Ministries and/or from names of all persons given by any member of the United Methodist churches of the district to the District Superintendent. These names shall be submitted by the superintendent to the District Conference. Additional nominations at the district conference may be made from the floor, provided that no nomination may be made without the agreement of the nominee to serve if elected. In the event of a tie for the final nominee(s), the nominee(s) shall be selected by lot.

2. Number of Persons to be Nominated. Each district may nominate up to one person for each 2,000 members of the United Methodist Church or major fraction thereof in that district, based upon figures reported at the preceding Annual Conference. District nominees need not be from the district which nominates them.

3. Agency Nominations. The lay members of the following agencies of the Annual Conference may also nominate one additional lay delegate: Board of Church and Society; Commission on Disabilities; Board of Discipleship; Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy; Council on Finance and Administration; Board of Global Ministries; Board of Higher Education Ministries; Board of Laity; Commission on the Status and Role of Women; United Methodist Men; United Methodist Women; Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.; and Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. In addition to the aforementioned nominees, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, and the Virginia United Methodist Student Movement each may nominate one delegate.

4. Church Membership. All nominees shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding their nomination and must be members of churches in the Virginia Conference and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years preceding their election. They also must be active members within The United Methodist Church at the time of holding General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference. The four-year participation and two-year membership requirements may be waived for young persons under 25 years of age. Such persons must be members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election.

5. Nomination Forms. All nominations shall include the nominee's name, picture not to exceed 1½" x 2½", address, phone number, e-mail address if available, church, district, and a personal statement not to exceed 150 words in which the nominee may indicate his or her experience, qualifications and reasons for wanting to serve. The nominations shall be on a form or facsimile thereof furnished by the director of Connectional Ministries. It is recommended that the nomination forms for persons to be voted upon by the district conference be circulated to the members of the district conference in advance of the district conference at which voting is to take place.

#### E. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON LAY DELEGATE NOMINATIONS

1. Membership. The committee shall be composed of two persons appointed by the Bishop plus one member of the Rules Committee designated by that committee.

2. Function. Each District Superintendent shall by Jan. 15 of the year of election submit to this committee in care of the Director of Connectional Ministries completed forms for all nominees from the district. The committee shall then forward a list of all nominees to the agencies named in ¶III.D.3. Each agency of the conference shall be responsible for forwarding to the committee any completed nomination form no later than March 1. The committee shall then compile all nomination forms alphabetically according to the last name of the nominee.

The nomination forms shall be printed in a booklet and mailed to each lay member at least two weeks prior to the Annual Conference.

3. List of Nominees. The lay nominees shall be those persons named on the nomination forms and contained in the materials furnished to each lay member of the Annual Conference. No additional nominations may be made from the floor, though lay members may cast write-in ballots for persons not included in the list of nominations.

#### F. BALLOTING PROCEDURES

1. Ballots Shall be Counted Electronically. The Rules Committee shall determine the electronic equipment and procedures to be used and shall do so in consultation with the chief lay and clergy tellers.

2. Preparation of Official Clergy and Lay Ballots. Following the completion of nominations, the chief tellers shall have official clergy and lay ballots prepared. The names of the persons nominated shall be listed alphabetically by surnames followed by Christian name and initial, or initials, of the person. In the event that the electronic means of balloting for any reason cannot be accomplished, then the electronic ballots shall be counted by hand.

3. Valid Ballots. To be valid, a ballot:

(a) must be cast on the ballot bearing the number designated by the presiding officer for that particular ballot; and

(b) must be voted for the number of delegates to be elected on that ballot, no more and no less.

4. Voting Area. The presiding officer shall designate the area of the Annual Conference floor in which clergy and lay members shall be seated during the balloting. Ballots shall be distributed to and collected from only those present and seated within the voting area of the Annual Conference and displaying the proper credentials.

5. Distribution of Ballots. Immediately prior to the taking of a ballot, the presiding officer shall have all clergy and lay members eligible to vote to stand (as they are able) and the tellers shall distribute ballots to and collect them from only those persons eligible to vote.

6. Ballot Reporting. After a ballot has been counted, the chief teller, either clergy or lay, shall furnish a written report to the bishop which shall contain (a) number of ballots cast; (b) number of ballots not valid; (c) number of ballots counted; (d) number of ballots necessary to elect; and (e) list of names of persons voted for, including the number of votes received by each, beginning with the largest number of votes.

7. Majority Required for Election. On every ballot, a majority of the valid votes cast shall be necessary for the election of a delegate, except on the ballot to elect reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference.

8. Reading or Distributing Names. On the first ballot for both General Conference and the jurisdictional conference, the presiding officer shall read or distribute all names receiving 10 or more votes, together with the number of votes cast for each. Thereafter, the minimum number of votes received before a name shall be read or distributed from a ballot shall be increased by five for each delegate elected (that is, on the first ballot a minimum of 10 votes; after the election of the first delegate, a minimum of 15 votes; after the election of the second delegate, a minimum of 20 votes, etc.). An exception to this procedure shall be the ballot for the last delegate elected to General Conference and the ballot for the last delegate elected to the jurisdictional conference, when all names who have received 10 or more votes on the preceding ballot shall be read or distributed.

9. Handling of Ballots after Counting and Recording. Upon completion of the counting and recording of a ballot, the chief teller shall seal the ballots and deliver them to the Annual Conference Secretary. The Annual Conference secretary shall retain all ballots until the adjournment of the Annual Conference after which they shall be destroyed.

#### G. TELLERS

1. Appointment of Chief Tellers, Assistant Chief Tellers and Tellers. The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall appoint a chief teller and an assistant chief teller for the clergy tellers and a chief teller and an assistant chief teller for the lay tellers. The chief tellers shall not be eligible to serve in the year of the next election of delegates to

General Conference and jurisdictional conference. The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall additionally appoint four clergy and four lay members of the Annual Conference from each district to form a pool of tellers from which as many teams shall be formed as the chief tellers deem advisable. One member of each team shall be designated as the captain for that team. Each time a ballot is to be distributed and collected, the chief teller for each order shall designate the team responsible for the distribution and collection of ballots.

2. Expenses for Balloting. All expenses incident to the balloting for and election of delegates to General Conference and the jurisdictional conference shall be borne by the Annual Conference.

#### H. EXPENSES OF CLERGY AND LAY ALTERNATES

The expenses of two clergy and two lay alternates to General Conference and to the jurisdictional conference shall be borne by the Annual Conference. Such expense allowances shall not exceed the expense allowances, per diem and travel, as are paid to the regular delegates.

### IV. NOMINATIONS FOR EPISCOPAL ELECTION

At the Annual Conference immediately preceding the jurisdictional conference, nominations for the office of bishop may be made by submitting the name of an elder and a biographical sketch of not more than 100 words to the secretary of the conference signed by not fewer than 50 members of the Annual Conference. To be eligible for nomination the person must not have attained his or her 68th birthday prior to the first day of the month in which the jurisdictional conference is held. Nominations shall cease at the close of the afternoon session of the first day of the Annual Conference.

The Annual Conference Secretary shall cause copies of each sketch to be prepared and distributed to the members of the Annual Conference. Ballots shall be prepared containing the name of each nominee and, beside each name, a square followed by the word "yes." The ballots shall be distributed to the members of the Annual Conference immediately before they are to be cast. A member of the Annual Conference may vote for one or more nominees, but not more than the number of episcopal vacancies to be filled, or may choose not to vote for any of the nominees. To be nominated to the jurisdictional conference, a nominee must receive an affirmative vote of not less than 60 percent of the total ballots cast.

### V. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOARDS AND AGENCIES

#### A. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOARDS AND AGENCIES

The following are defined as program boards and agencies: The Board of Church and Society, the Church Development Team, the Board of Discipleship, the Board of Global Ministries, the Board of Higher Education Ministries, and the Board of Laity. Each board and agency shall meet at least annually.

1. Membership. All program board and agency members shall be elected for a four-year term by the Annual Conference. So far as possible, board membership shall be composed of an equal number of clergy and laity. No elected member may serve more than eight consecutive years except as authorized by the *Discipline* or in ¶I.E.8 of the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies. The bishop shall annually appoint for one-year terms at least one district superintendent to each board, agency or commission. Except for the Board of Ordained Ministry, the presiding bishop and the director of Connectional Ministries are members of all boards, agencies and commissions with vote unless otherwise provided for by the *Book of Discipline*.

2. Organization. The boards shall organize in the several divisions or equivalent structure listed below to carry out their respective functions. Each member of a board shall serve on one division or equivalent structure. There shall be an executive committee of each board whose duties and responsibilities shall be determined by the board. A board may develop such additional structure, including the election of division members at large, as it deems necessary to discharge its assigned responsibilities, provided, however, that where additional funding is

required for such structure, prior approval of the Common Table for Church Vitality shall be obtained by the board. Division members at large are not members of the board.

3. Function. Conference boards will provide consultative services and resources to the local church, the District Councils on Ministries, the Annual Conference and the Common Table for Church Vitality. Each board will make program recommendations to the Common Table for Church Vitality, will be responsible for the essential functions of the area of concern assigned by the Common Table for Church Vitality, or by the *Book of Discipline*, and will be related to the objectives and scope of work set forth by its General Board. Each board is amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality.

#### 4. Responsibilities.

a. Church and Society. The Board of Church and Society, in cooperation with the General Board of Church and Society and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs on Christian social concern within the bounds of the conference. To discharge its responsibilities it shall divide its membership into committees, which so far as practical shall be patterned after the divisions of the General Board of Church and Society. In 2010 the Annual Conference shall elect six members (three clergy and three lay) to the class of 2014. In 2011 the Annual Conference shall elect four members (two clergy and two lay) to the class of 2015. In 2012 the Annual Conference shall elect six members (three clergy and three lay) to the class of 2016. In 2013 the Annual Conference shall elect four members (two clergy and two lay) to the class of 2017, making the total membership 20.

b. Church Development Team. There shall be a Church Development Team dedicated to working on strategies for and implementation of church development and new faith communities in the Annual Conference. This team/board will consist of a minimum of 12 and up to 16 persons: six nominated by the bishop and Cabinet, six nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team, and up to four additional persons who may be co-opted by the team for expertise and diversity. The membership of this team will be placed in four classes to ensure continuity. The team is amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality.

c. Discipleship. The Board of Discipleship, in cooperation with the General Board of Discipleship and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall create partnerships by providing a network of experience, knowledge and coaching through intentional connection to enhance or create effective disciple-making processes. These partnerships are created by: (1) coaching at local levels and pulling in identified district and conference resources as needed, (2) training at district or regional levels, (3) drawing on best practices gathered locally, jurisdictionally, nationally and globally, (4) connecting mentor/resource churches with those who request assistance and information, (5) organizing in regional teams, and (6) raising vision, visibility and possibility during Annual Conference sessions and inviting people to connect with a congregational coach. The Board of Discipleship shall consist of a directing board to set the vision for disciple-making ministries in the Annual Conference and to support research on best practices, gathered and distributed by a Conference Awareness Team at events and through all other forms of communication.

The Directing Board will consist of the following ten (10) members: three officers (chair, vice-chair, and secretary), Conference Awareness Team – Best Practices Group Chair/Leader, Conference Awareness Team – Connecting Group Chair/Leader, and five (5) Regional Network Leaders. The officers will be elected by the Annual Conference. In addition, the Goodson Foundation and the Stockton Academy of Evangelism will each be represented by one person with voice but not vote. The chair of the Life Span Ministries Council will serve on the directing board with voice and vote through 2012 to assist with the merger of the two boards. The officers and Conference Awareness Team Group chairs/leaders will select individuals to serve as leaders of the Regional Discipling Network Teams. The Regional Network Leaders will be *ex officio* members of the Directing Board with voice and vote. Members of the Board of Discipleship as of July 1, 2010, will be transitioned into the new structure as members of the Directing Board, Conference Awareness Team, or Regional Discipling Network Teams to serve the remainder of their terms.

The Conference Awareness Team will consist of 12 members divided among two working groups: (1) Best Practices Group and (2) Connecting Group. Members of the Conference Awareness Team will be nominated from the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team (CLDDT) and elected by the Annual Conference. The two working groups will annually elect a chair/leader from among its members. The chairs will serve as representatives of the two working groups on the Directing Board.

Members of the Regional Discipling Network Teams will be selected by the Network Lead/Mentor Coach, in consultation with the Directing Board, based upon best practices research. Each team members will serve a four-year term, with a maximum of two consecutive terms of service. However, if one is first elected to fill an unexpired term of two years or less, that person is eligible for re-election to two full terms.

The individual members of each Regional Discipling Network Team representing children, youth, young adults, and older adults will meet together at least annually as the Conference Council for the respective ministry areas (with additional members as required by conference rules and *The Book of Discipline*, if any) for: (a) sharing of best practices in their regions, (b) training which will enhance their service to the faith communities within each region, and (c) coordinating of conference programs and communities within each region, and (d) coordinating of conference programs and initiatives as appropriate.

The Youth Council and Young Adult Council (ages 18 – 35) will consist of members as mandated in the appropriate sections of *The Book of Discipline*.

The Youth Council shall have one youth representative (grade 7 – 12) elected by each District Youth Council or equivalent. Six adults shall be elected to the Youth Council: three adults elected by the Youth Council or equivalent and three elected by the Annual Conference.

The Young Adult Council shall have three additional young adult members at-large elected by the Annual Conference.

The Older Adult Council and Children's Council shall each have one additional member at-large elected by the Annual Conference and the authority to co-opt up to six more members to meet short-term needs.

d. Global Ministries. The Board of Global Ministries, in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs to assist districts and local churches to carry out all phases of the work of the church in mission and of church extension within the Annual Conference. The Conference Director of Mission shall serve as the conference secretary of Global Ministries, fulfilling the responsibilities outlined in ¶633.3 of the *2008 Book of Discipline*. To discharge its responsibilities it shall divide into three (3) mission teams: (1) health and relief mission team; (2) mission interpretation team; and (3) mission relationship team. The position of Conference Coordinator of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (CUIC) shall be appointed by the Bishop and shall be an ex officio member of the Mission Relationship Team of the Conference Board of Global Ministries.

In 2006 the Annual Conference shall elect six members (one-half lay and one-half clergy) to the class of 2010, making the total board membership 36. In 2007 the Annual Conference shall elect four members (one-half lay and one-half clergy) to the class of 2011, making the total board membership 30. In 2008 the Annual Conference shall elect six members (one-half lay and one-half clergy) to the class of 2012, making the total board membership 26. In 2009 the Annual Conference shall elect four members (one-half lay and one-half clergy) to the class of 2013, making the total membership of the board 20. Thereafter, the membership of the board shall be 20 with six or four persons (one-half lay and one-half clergy) elected each year to replace outgoing classes.

e. Higher Education and Campus Ministries. The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs to provide for higher education and ministry objectives as set forth in ¶1405 of the *2008 Book of Discipline*, and to perform the responsibilities in regard to education and professional campus ministries as set

forth in ¶634 of the *2008 Book of Discipline*.

Membership: With an effort to maintain a balance of clergy and laity, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries shall have 12 Conference elected members (placed in four classes): a current campus minister, a current Campus Ministry Local Board chairperson, a current local church pastor with passion for campus ministry, a current United Methodist college or university president, a young adult/student, a member with expertise in property management, and six general members (with a preference for expertise in executive leadership, finance, communication, and marketing). The member who has expertise in the area of property management shall also serve as the chairperson of the Conference Board of Property Managers of the Wesley Foundation, Inc. *Ex officio* members shall be: the director of Connectional Ministries, a liaison district superintendent (liaison between the BHECM and the Cabinet), an additional district superintendent, the conference Treasurer, and any Virginia Conference member to the General Board of Higher Education Ministries. The related conference staff person (the director of Children's, Youth, Young Adult, and Higher Education Ministries) and the director of the Association of Educational Institutions (AEI) will serve as members with voice but no vote. The term for chairperson shall be four years and terms for members shall also be four years and follow section I E8 of the Conference Rules and Policies. Nominations and election of the chairperson shall follow sections I E11 of the Conference Rules and Policies. The Executive Committee of the BHECM shall consist of the chairperson, the liaison district superintendent, the current campus minister, the member with expertise in property management and three general members.

Organization: The BHECM will meet a minimum of every other month. The Executive Committee will meet as needed. The BHECM will also be responsible for a minimum of one annual meeting for the following: Effectiveness Training Forums for Local Campus Ministry Boards, Effectiveness Training Forums for Campus Ministers/Chaplains, and Effectiveness Discussion Forums for District Superintendents. The incorporated entities of the board are the Wesley Foundation, Inc., and Francis Asbury Loan Fund, Inc. The conference board of property managers is a sub-group of the Wesley Foundation, Inc. The Executive Committee of the Board shall function as the board of directors of both the Wesley Foundation, Inc., and Francis Asbury Loan Fund, Inc.

f. Laity. The Board of Laity shall act as an advocate for the Virginia Conference laity in all forums of the conference. The Board of Laity will develop those required programs which cannot be adequately developed within other boards and agencies of the conference. Membership of the Board of Laity shall be composed of the conference lay leader, three associate conference lay leaders (serving as chairpersons of the three areas), the presidents of the conference organizations of United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Young Adult Ministry, and the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, 18 district lay leaders, and five clergy and seven other members elected by Annual Conference including two lay men, two lay women and two youth. To discharge its responsibilities, the Board of Laity shall divide its membership into three divisions: (1) Lay Life and Ministry (including leadership training, lay speaking, Scouting, and long-range planning); (2) Retreats and District Coordination; and (3) Stewardship (including finance and stewardship of time, talent and possessions). This division will be composed of five clergy members, not less than five lay members, and one district superintendent. The Board of Laity has specific responsibilities within the conference structure to: (1) mobilize the resources of the laity of the Virginia Annual Conference; (2) develop and promote lay activities and spiritual life; (3) enhance the stewardship activities of Virginia Conference laity through example, exhortation, training, and the education of United Methodist adults, youth and children; (4) develop appropriate retreat activities at the conference, cluster and district levels; (5) enhance the financial support of the conference through training directed toward a fuller understanding of the connectional system and requirements for adequate funding of this system; and (6) promote and support organizations of United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, and United Methodist Young Adult Ministry in each local church in the Virginia Conference. Beginning in 2006, the Board of Laity shall nominate to the Annual Conference for election a layperson to be the

conference lay leader for the ensuing two years. Any person elected to the office of conference lay leader shall not be eligible to serve more than three consecutive terms, or a total of six years.

#### B. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES

The following agencies having administrative responsibilities are grouped together under the general title "Administration" with duties and responsibilities as indicated.

1. Archives and History, Commission on. There shall be a Commission on Archives and History and a Virginia Conference Historical Society. The duties and responsibilities of the commission shall be as set forth in the *2008 Book of Discipline* ¶641. Members of the Annual Conference shall be members of the Virginia Conference Historical Society, which will elect 48 members to the commission who will also serve as the directors of the Virginia Conference Historical Society. The officers of the commission and the society shall be the same.

2. Assembly Center, Virginia United Methodist. The members of the board of directors of the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center shall be nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team and elected by the Annual Conference. The board of directors shall have full responsibility for the operation of the conference assembly center directly under the Annual Conference trustees with a working relationship through the Common Table for Church Vitality for programming purposes.

3. Communications, Virginia United Methodist, Inc. There shall be a Board of Communications which is to serve all of the agencies of the Annual Conference in the area of communication. It shall be administratively related to and amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality. The board and/or its subunits may be incorporated.

a. Function. To employ printed publications and other communications media to inform and nurture the church in the life of faith, to provide resources and support for the program of the General Church and the Annual Conference at local, district and conference levels, to witness to the Christian faith and to interpret the life and work of the church to the wider community through the public communications media. The board shall coordinate the use of the public media by all conference agencies and personnel.

b. Membership. Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc., shall consist of 28 persons, 16 of whom (half lay and half clergy) shall be elected by the Annual Conference. The 16 members thus elected and *ex officio* members shall elect 12 additional members at large selected with regard to professional expertise, nonprofessional objectivity, and media representation. The *ex officio* members shall be the director of Connectional Ministries, a Cabinet representative, director of Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc., the conference information systems director, and any member of United Methodist Communications, the General Board of Publications, and any other general board or agency whose purpose or function is included with the purposes and functions of this organization, or their successors, who is a member of a local charge in the Virginia Conference or a clergy member of the Virginia Conference. There shall be a president, vice president and secretary.

c. Organization. There shall be the following committees:

i. Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of the corporation and the chairpersons of the program and standing committees. The president shall act as chair of the executive committee.

ii. Program Committees are the following: Communication Education, Print Media (including a United Methodist Publishing House liaison), Electronic Media and Interpretation.\*

Each member of the board shall serve on at least one of these committees.

iii. Standing Committees. There shall be a Standing Committee on Nominations and Personnel composed of five members of the board who shall be appointed by the president, with the corporation vice president chairing the committee. There shall be a Standing Committee on Finance composed of the president and the vice president and a committee chairperson who shall be appointed by the president. There may be other standing committees as the board shall determine from time to time.

iv. Special Committees may be appointed by the president from time to

time to function on behalf of specific projects or activities of the corporation.

4. Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team (CLDDT). (See ¶ I.E.1. for composition and function of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.)

5. Disabilities, Commission on. The commission shall consist of 18 members, half clergy and half lay. Membership shall include persons with physical disabilities and persons with mental disabilities. The Bishop may appoint to the commission a district superintendent to serve as Cabinet representative with voice but not vote.

6. Episcopacy, Committee on the. There shall be a Committee on the Episcopacy, the membership and duties of which shall be as prescribed in ¶637 of the *2008 Book of Discipline*.

7. Equitable Compensation, Commission on. The Commission on Equitable Compensation shall be composed of an equal number of lay and clergy persons including at least one lay and one clergy from churches of fewer than 200 members who are nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team and elected by the Annual Conference. In addition, one district superintendent named by the Cabinet shall be a member. It shall perform the duties assigned to it by the *2008 Book of Discipline* ¶625. It shall receive all requests from or on behalf of all pastoral charges for aid to be used solely for clergy support. It shall administer the Equitable Compensation Fund and may employ money from other agencies, including those which may be granted by the Board of Global Ministries, as appropriate in each case, to meet these requests.

8. Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy, Commission on. There shall be a Virginia Conference Commission on Minority Concerns and Advocacy amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality. The commission will provide for the functions as outlined in the current *Book of Discipline* for the Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns and Commission on Religion and Race. The basic membership of the commission shall consist of 10 clergy, 10 laypersons, and five members at-large elected upon nomination of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. A minimum of two members shall be youth and young adults between the ages of 12 - 35. The commission will be constituted so that two-thirds of the membership be representative of people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. The district coordinators for Religion and Race shall be *ex officio* members of the commission with both voice and vote. The presidents or chairs of conference caucuses, fellowships, or associations for racial and ethnic constituencies shall be *ex officio* members of the commission with voice but not vote. The bishop may appoint to the commission a district superintendent to serve as Cabinet representative with voice but not vote.

In 2010, the Annual Conference shall elect seven members to include one young person to the class of 2014, making the total commission membership 31. In 2011, the Annual Conference shall elect six members to include one young person to the class of 2015, making the total commission membership 29. In 2012, the Annual Conference shall elect six members to the class of 2016, making the total commission membership 27. In 2013, the Annual Conference shall elect six members to the class of 2017, making the total commission membership 25.

9. Finance and Administration, Conference Council on. There shall be a Conference Council on Finance and Administration elected and organized with responsibilities as set forth in the *2008 Book of Discipline* ¶¶611-619, provided that membership of the council shall be composed of five clergy, five lay women, and five lay men nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.

10. Foundation, United Methodist. The trustees of the United Methodist Foundation shall be elected and discharge their responsibilities pursuant to the charter heretofore approved by the Annual Conference.

11. Incapacity, Joint Committee on. There shall be a Joint Committee on Incapacity consisting of two representatives from the Board of Ordained Ministry, two representatives from the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., one representative from the Cabinet and one representative of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Their duties shall be as prescribed by the *2008 Book of Discipline* ¶652.

12. Investigation, Committee on. There shall be a Committee on Investigation nominated, elected, and with duties as set forth in the *2008 Book of Discipline* ¶2703.

13. Minutes, Committee on. There shall be a Committee on Minutes consisting of seven members nominated by the Cabinet for a term of eight years, provided that the terms of four members shall expire at the end of one quadrennium and terms of the other three shall expire at the end of the next quadrennium. At least three members shall be lay persons and at least three shall be clergy. The chair shall be designated by the Cabinet. The committee shall review the daily minutes of the Annual Conference proceedings and report at the next session. Within three weeks of the close of the Annual Conference session, the committee will meet with the conference Secretary to review and correct the minutes of proceedings before submitting the same for printing in the conference *Journal*.

14. Ordained Ministry. The Board of Ordained Ministry in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Common Table for Church Vitality, shall develop programs to assist districts and local churches in preparing and aiding persons to fulfill their ministry in Christ as this has been historically understood by United Methodism. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall perform all the duties and functions as set forth in the *Book of Discipline* and shall be directly amenable to the Annual Conference. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall have 67 persons nominated by the bishop (*2008 Book of Discipline* ¶635.1) and elected by the Annual Conference at the beginning of each quadrennium. The Annual Conference Registrar and at least one district superintendent appointed by the bishop shall also serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry. At least one person from each district shall be included on the board. If during the course of the quadrennium a district should lose its representation on the board, an additional person shall be elected to the board to ensure representation from each district.

15. Pensions and Related Benefits, Virginia United Methodist, Inc. This agency, which is incorporated as Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., shall be composed of 30 members nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team and elected by the Annual Conference for a term of eight years. In addition, any clergy member of the conference or lay member of a church within the conference who is a member of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall also be a member of the agency (*2008 Book of Discipline*, ¶639.2a). If no district superintendent is a member of this agency the bishop may name one to represent the Cabinet. He or she shall have voice but not vote.

In 2004, the Annual Conference selected 12 members to the class of 2012, making the total board membership 27. It is recommended that this class and all subsequent classes consist of one-third laywomen, one-third laymen and one-third clergy. In 2008, the Annual Conference shall elect 12 members to the class of 2016. Thereafter, the elected membership of the board shall be 24 with half being elected at the beginning of each quadrennium.

This agency shall perform the duties set forth in the *2008 Book of Discipline* ¶639. In addition, it shall administer the conference program for participant supplemental benefits including the various insurance programs, shall study on a continuing basis the problems of participant disability, making recommendations relative to these problems as needed, and shall provide for a continuing pastoral ministry to disabled participants.

16. Preachers' Relief Society. This is an incorporated body with invested trust funds, the income from which is used from time to time for the relief of needy members of the clergy and their families.

17. Rules Committee. There shall be a Rules Committee consisting of nine members elected by the Annual Conference on nomination of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team or from the floor for a term of eight years. The terms of four members shall expire at the end of one quadrennium and the terms of the other five members shall expire at the end of the next quadrennium. Five members of the committee shall be lay and four members shall be clergy. The chancellor(s) of the conference shall be *ex officio* members of the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee shall review the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies between sessions of the Annual Conference, and make its recommendations to the Annual Conference. Proposed amendments to the Virginia Annual

Conference Rules and Policies and any other matters of parliamentary order or procedure in the business of the Annual Conference shall be referred to the Rules Committee.

18. Site Selection, Committee on. There shall be a Committee on Site Selection consisting of four members, one half lay and one half clergy, elected on nomination of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team for a term of eight years. The committee shall be divided into two classes with the terms of one class to expire at the end of one quadrennium and the terms of the other class to expire at the end of the next quadrennium. This committee shall make arrangements for the meeting of the Annual Conference and shall recommend a location for the meeting of the Annual Conference a minimum of five years in advance.

19. Status and Role of Women in the Church, Commission on the. There shall be a Virginia Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women in The United Methodist Church amenable to the Common Table for Church Vitality. The membership shall consist of one representative from each district plus six persons at large elected by the Annual Conference. In addition the conference United Methodist Women shall name one member. The bishop may appoint to the commission a district superintendent to serve as Cabinet representative with voice but not vote. The majority of the commission, including both lay and clergy, shall be women. The chairperson shall be a woman.

20. Trustees, Board of. There shall be a Board of Trustees consisting of 12 members, elected by the Annual Conference, organized and with responsibilities as set forth in the *2008 Book of Discipline* (¶¶ 2512 2516).

#### C. TASK FORCES

A task force may be established to accomplish a specific objective. If it is organized by direction of the Annual Conference, the authorizing legislation shall contain a termination date for the task force. Such task force desiring continuation beyond its termination date shall seek and receive their established termination dates (June or December). Task forces should not as a general rule exist beyond a four-year term. Task forces may request funding for conference projects, but no task force shall disburse funds unless so directed by its parent board or requested to do so by the Common Table for Church Vitality and approved by the Council on Finance and Administration in its report to Annual Conference. A conference organized task force continuing beyond its first year shall annually request, in its report to Annual Conference, funding to cover operational costs in the succeeding year.

#### D. CHANGING STRUCTURE OF PROGRAM BOARD OR AGENCY

Any proposal to the Annual Conference to amend or change the structure of any program board or agency at the division level or above may originate (1) upon recommendation of the board or agency itself and shall be submitted to the Common Table for Church Vitality for its recommendation; (2) upon recommendation of the Common Table for Church Vitality, provided such proposal shall have been submitted to the board itself for its recommendation; or (3) on petition of a member or members of the Annual Conference if such a petition has been previously submitted to the Common Table for Church Vitality and the board or agency for their recommendations, or if not previously so submitted in time for consideration by these organizations, such petition shall be referred to the Common Table for Church Vitality and the board or agency for their recommendations prior to action by the Annual Conference. Internal change below the division level shall be the responsibility of each board.

### VI. THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

#### A. DISTRICT CONFERENCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR

Each district within the Virginia Conference shall hold a session of the district conference at least once during the conference year (in accordance with the *2008 Book of Discipline*, ¶¶ 657 and 658).

#### B. AGENDA

The district superintendent, in consultation with the district lay leader, shall set the agenda for the district conference. The agenda shall include a report from the district committee on ordained ministry.

Members of the district conference shall elect the district lay leader (¶659.2) for a term of

not less than four years and not more than six years. The district conference shall also elect the committee on the district superintendency (§668.1,2), the district trustees (§2517) and such other officers as it deems appropriate. The district committee on ordained ministry (§665.1) and the district board of church location and building (§2518) are approved or elected by the Annual Conference.

#### C. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of each district conference shall be composed of the following: all ordained and commissioned clergy, licensed local pastors, lay supply pastors, certified lay ministers, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses and home missionaries related to that district; a church lay leader, chairperson of the church council or its equivalent body, church school superintendent, president of the United Methodist Women, and president of the chartered United Methodist Men from each local church in the district; the district steward from each charge; the lay member of the Annual Conference from each charge; and three members at large, one of whom shall be a youth, elected by each charge conference;

District officers who are members of the district conference include: the chairperson of the district Council on Ministries or equivalent body, the district trustees, the district treasurer, the district lay leader and associate lay leaders, the president of the district United Methodist Women, the president of the district United Methodist Men, a representative of the district youth council, the president of the district United Methodist Young Adults, the district coordinators of children, youth, young adult, adult, and family ministries, other district coordinators and directors, five youth members elected by the district youth council and five young adult members elected by the District Council on Ministries (or equivalent body). Special attention shall be given to inclusiveness.

#### D. ELECTION OF DISTRICT LAY MEMBERS AT LARGE OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

District members at large of the Annual Conference shall be elected by the lay members of the district conference. Nominations may be made in whatever manner the district determines, but provision shall always be made for nomination from the floor. Election shall be by written ballot, and those nominees receiving the most votes shall be the members at large, and the rest shall be alternates in order of the votes received up to the number of members at large and alternates allotted to each district by the Annual Conference.

#### E. RECORD OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The secretary of the district conference shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings and send a copy to the secretary of the Annual Conference within 30 days following the district conference.

### VII. RULES OF ORDER AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

#### A. RULES THAT APPLY WHEN THE CHAIRPERSON STANDS

When the chairperson stands and calls the conference to order, no member shall speak, address the chair, or stand while the chairperson stands.

#### B. VOTING AREA

The Annual Conference shall fix the voting area of the conference at the opening business session and voting on all Annual Conference matters must take place within the prescribed area. The voting area of the conference shall be separated from other areas at the meeting site. All entrances to the voting area shall be staffed by ushers and admission shall be by official badge only. All members of the conference within the voting area when the vote is taken shall be entitled to vote except such persons as otherwise are ineligible to vote.

#### C. SUFFICIENT SEATS SHALL BE PROVIDED

Sufficient seats shall be provided for all lay, clergy, probationary, and associate members and all youth members, members on special assignment, and all other persons entitled by the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies to be within the voting area of the conference.

#### D. VOTERS TO DISPLAY PROPER CREDENTIALS

Members of the conference and others entitled to be seated within the voting area of the conference shall be furnished proper credentials as set forth in Appendix "A" (attached).

During balloting, ballots will be distributed to and collected from only those persons displaying the proper credentials.

#### E. METHOD OF VOTING

Method of voting shall be determined by the presiding officer. A count vote may be ordered on call of any member supported by one third of the members present and voting, in which case the members shall arise as they are able from their seats and stand until counted.

#### F. EXCEPTIONS TO THE NO INTERRUPTION RULE

No member who has the floor may be interrupted except for a question on the matter under consideration, a breach of order, a misrepresentation, to direct the attention of the conference to the fact that the time has arrived for a special order, or to raise a very urgent question of high privilege.

#### G. LIMITS ON SPEAKING

No member shall speak: 1. More than once on the same question if any member who has not spoken desires the floor; 2. More than twice on the same subject under the same motion; 3. Any longer than five minutes, unless this five-minute period may be limited or extended by a two-thirds vote of the conference.

#### H. HIGH PRIVILEGE

A member claiming the floor for a very urgent question of high privilege shall be allowed to indicate briefly the nature of the question, and if it be adjudged by the chair to be such, he or she may proceed until the chairperson judges that he or she has exhausted the privilege.

#### I. CALL FOR DIVISION OF ANY QUESTION

Before a vote is taken any member shall have the right to call for a division of any question, if it is subject to such division as he or she indicates. If no member objects, the division shall be made; but if there is objection, the chair shall put the question of division to vote, not waiting for a second.

#### J. MOTIONS TO BE PRESENTED IN WRITING

For the benefit of the Secretary, and for the sake of clarification, motions, including amendments, shall be presented in writing.

#### K. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

The operation of any of the provisions of the Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies or of these Rules of Order and Procedure may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the conference.

#### L. CHANGE OR AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

The Virginia Annual Conference Rules and Policies and these Rules of Order and Procedure may be amended or changed by a two thirds vote of the conference; provided the proposed change or amendment has originated in the Rules Committee, or has been presented to the conference in writing and referred to this committee, which committee shall report thereon not later than the following day.

#### M. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER APPLIES

The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall apply to any and all situations not covered elsewhere by these rules.

*\*Editorial change to reflect current language*



## VOTING RIGHTS RELATED TO NAME BADGE COLORS

Green (lay vote with full lay voting rights, *Book of Discipline* ¶602.4)

Lay Members  
At-Large District Lay Members  
District and Conference Lay Leaders  
Conference President of United Methodist Men  
Conference President of United Methodist Women  
Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries  
Conference Scouting Coordinator  
President or equivalent of Conference Young Adult Organization  
Designated Member of Conference Youth Organization  
Chair, Conference College Student Organization  
District Youth and Young Adult Members (one of each from each district)  
Diaconal Ministers  
Retired Diaconal Ministers  
Deaconesses (see also ¶1314.5)  
Home Missionaries

White (ordained deacons and elders in full connection with full voting rights, ¶602.1a)

FE Elder in Full Connection (¶334.1)  
FD Deacon in Full Connection (¶329.2)

*Note: Clergy on voluntary leaves of absence (personal, family, transitional) may vote for other clergy delegates to general or jurisdictional conferences and may be elected to serve as delegates themselves (¶354.7). Clergy on involuntary leave of absence may not vote on or be elected as delegates to general or jurisdictional conference (¶355.7).*

RM, RD Retired Full Member (¶602.1a)

White (May vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference, and clergy matters)

AM Associate Members (¶602.1c)  
PM Probationary Member under 1992 Discipline (¶413.2, 1992 Discipline)  
PD Provisional Deacon (¶327.2 and ¶602.1b)  
PE Provisional Elder (¶327.2 and ¶602.1b)  
EP Full member other denomination serving as a Provisional Member (¶347.3b, ¶327.2)  
DP Deacon from other denomination serving as Provisional Member (¶347.3b ¶327.2)  
OF Full member of another denomination (¶346.2)  
FL Full-time Local Pastor (¶316.6 and ¶602.1d)  
PL Part-time Local Pastor (¶316.6 and ¶602.1d)  
RA Retired Associate Member (¶602.1c)  
RP Retired Probationary/Provisional Member (¶327.2)

White (voice but no vote)

AF Affiliate Member, non-voting (¶334.5)  
RL Retired Local Pastor (¶320.5)  
OE Elder Member of other annual conference (¶346.1)  
OD Deacon Member of other annual conference (¶346.1)  
OA Associate Member of other annual conference (¶346.1)  
OP Provisional Member of other annual conference (¶346.1)  
RAAF Retired Affiliate Member, non-voting (¶334.5)

Red (no voice or vote)

SY Lay Supply  
HL Honorable Location (¶359)  
RHL Retired – Honorable Location (¶359.3)  
MOD Minister of another denomination serving an ecumenical parish in Virginia  
G Official Guest  
ROC Retired full member, other annual conference

Brown (not official)

All others

## CHARTER OF THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

### I. PURPOSE

The Common Table for Church Vitality (Common Table) serves to coordinate and prioritize the ministries and resources of the Virginia Conference. It nurtures, interprets and promotes the vision of the Conference, as well as the mandates of *The Book of Discipline* which relate to conference work. The Common Table lives out the values of the conference (stated below in I.B.) in its own work, and advocates for the presence and observance of those values in the work and ministry of the conference.

#### A. VISION

The Virginia Annual Conference has adopted the following vision statement: “We envision faith communities where all God’s people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world.”

#### B. VALUES

The Conference shall embody the following values as it endeavors to assist all churches in the task of making disciples:

- Be led by the Holy Spirit.
- Grow spiritually and numerically.
- Serve the local church.
- Connect with and equip the local church for ministries of welcome, nurture and transformation.
- Develop and live out ministries to the poor.
- Strive for excellence.
- Model servant-leadership at all levels.
- Honor diversity and teach inclusivity.
- Practice simplicity.
- Communicate effectively, that others might also.
- Focus on ministry.

### II. MEMBERSHIP

The Common Table provides spiritual leadership for the conference to carry out the Purpose of this Charter. Each leader represents a broad spectrum of persons and groups who are in ministry in the conference. The Common Table includes the following 19 positions:

- A. The presiding bishop, conference Lay Leader and the director of Connectional Ministries.
- B. Equipping the Local Church – Two persons (lay and clergy) representing:
  - Board of Discipleship (including Goodson Foundation and Stockton Academy of Evangelism)
  - Board of Laity
- C. Mission and New Churches – Two persons (lay and clergy) representing:
  - Board of Global Ministries
  - Church Development Team
- D. Communications and Conferencing – One person representing:
  - Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.
  - Annual Conference Planning Committee
  - Site Selection Committee
- E. Equipping Beyond the Local Church – One person representing:
  - Board of Church and Society
  - Heart Havens, Inc.
  - United Methodist Homes, Inc.
  - United Methodist Retired Clergy Housing, Inc.
  - United Methodist Family Services, Inc.
  - Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, Inc.
  - Commission on Archives and History

- F. Equipping for Inclusivity – One person representing:
  - Commission on Status and Role of Women
  - Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy
  - Commission on Disabilities
  - Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns
- G. Human Resources Area – Two persons (lay and clergy) representing:
  - Board of Ordained Ministry
  - Pension and Health Benefits
  - Commission on Equitable Compensation
- H. United Methodist Women – One person named by conference United Methodist Women
- I. United Methodist Men – One person named by conference United Methodist Men
- J. Ministries with Adults – One person representing:
  - Older Adult Council
- K. Ministries with Young People – One person representing:
  - Youth Council
  - Young Adult Council
- L. Ministries with Children – One person representing:
  - Children’s Council
- M. Cabinet Representative – One person
- N. Administration – One person representing:
  - Council on Finance and Administration
  - Conference Trustees
  - Rules Committee
  - United Methodist Foundation, Inc.
- O. Other – one person
  - President of the Board of Higher Education Ministries

The elected Secretary of the Annual Conference will serve as Secretary for the Common Table without vote.

It is both desirable and consistent with our Virginia Conference values that the members of the Common Table represent the diversity of our conference.

Persons representing separately incorporated entities do so solely for the purpose of communication. Separately incorporated entities remain independent, autonomous, incorporated bodies.

### III. SELECTION OF COMMON TABLE MEMBERS

Common Table members are nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team and elected by the Annual Conference. The bishop and existing Common Table members may make nomination recommendations to the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. Alternates for Common Table members listed in paragraph II D, E, F, J, K, L, M, and N are nominated by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team and elected by the Annual Conference. Alternates for Common Table members listed in paragraph II H and I will be selected by the conference United Methodist Women and Men, respectively. The Cabinet alternate in Paragraph M will be named by the bishop.

### IV. TERMS OF SERVICE

Common Table members serve four-year terms and are placed in annual classes. For the first two years, there will be no rotation. The bishop, conference Lay Leader and director of Connectional Ministries will place the initial membership into four classes. Class I will consist of four members, each of whom will serve a term of three years. Class II will consist of three members, each of whom will serve a term of four years. Class III will consist of four persons, each of whom will serve a term of five years. Class IV will consist of three persons, each of whom will serve a term of six years. After initial terms are completed, all persons shall serve terms of four years, and no person shall serve more than six consecutive years. If a person is

elected to fill an unexpired term of two years or less, that person is eligible for reelection to a full four-year term. The conference United Methodist Men’s organization and conference United Methodist Women’s organization each will select its representative to serve a term not to exceed four years. Alternates are not elected to a term of service, but attend only when the Common Table members cannot be present.

In the event that a member resigns or dies during his/her term, and no alternate exists, a replacement shall be nominated by the Conference Leadership Development and Discovery Team and elected by the Annual Conference with the replacement serving until the end of the original term. Any member of the Common Table who is absent from two meetings without excuse or from three consecutive meetings for any reason shall automatically cease to be a member of the Common Table.

### V. MEETINGS

The Common Table will meet at least quarterly, often in extended day format, to enhance the depth of its work and its own spiritual formation as a faith community. By invitation of the Common Table, others may meet with the Common Table to enhance its knowledge and understanding. Meetings shall be open, consistent with the provisions of *The Book of Discipline*.

### VI. OFFICERS

The bishop, conference Lay Leader and director of Connectional Ministries will lead the Common Table in interpreting the conference vision. The director of Connectional Ministries is the chairperson. The conference Lay Leader is the vice chairperson. The Secretary of the Annual Conference is the Secretary of the Common Table, without vote.

### VII. COMMITTEES

#### A. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Common Table shall appoint a Personnel Committee annually from within its members to assist with the selection and employment of all conference program staff, both lay and clergy. The conference Lay Leader shall chair this committee. The director of Connectional Ministries shall serve as an *ex officio* member of this committee without vote.

#### B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Common Table may appoint a Grants Committee annually from among the members of the Conference to advise the Common Table on the following:

1. Grants for connectional ministries beyond the local level, funded through the Conference Benevolence apportionment, and
2. Program grants for local ministry projects funded through the Conference Benevolence apportionment, the United Methodist Women, and the Church Extension Fund.

#### C. OTHER COMMITTEES

The Common Table may designate such other committees as are necessary for its functioning.

#### D. ALTERNATES

Alternates will not serve on any committees.

### VIII. SELECTION OF DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES AND STAFF

A. The Annual Conference shall elect annually upon nomination of the bishop, and in consultation with the Common Table’s Personnel Committee and the Cabinet, an executive officer to be known as the director of Connectional Ministries. The normal term for this officer shall be six years, but this may be extended to no more than eight years at the discretion of the bishop. The responsibilities of the director of Connectional Ministries shall be, but are not limited to, the following:

1. To serve as the chairperson of the Common Table and co-chairperson, with the conference Lay Leader, of the Conference Leadership Development and Discovery Team.
2. To be a communication link between the conference program agencies and Jurisdictional

and General Conference program agencies.

3. To facilitate communication among the conference program agencies and the local churches.

4. To serve as a resource person for district programs and the Common Table in the program planning, implementation and evaluation process.

5. To supervise the conference program staff persons.

6. To serve on other conference agencies as determined by the Annual Conference, and/or by the Common Table.

B. Each clergy staff person shall be nominated annually by the Personnel Committee of the Common Table with the request that the bishop would appoint him or her. Each lay staff person shall be nominated annually by the Personnel Committee of Common Table and employed by the Common Table. Nominations for staff members shall be presented to the Common Table after consultation with the appropriate boards and agencies.

C. The Director of United Methodist Communications shall carry out the policies and program of Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc. and shall cooperate with all agencies of the conference in the use of the media to disseminate news that promotes the diverse work of the church's life.

D. The Business Manager/Treasurer of the Annual Conference shall serve the Common Table and all of the boards and agencies in direct support of their work and shall oversee the financial operations of the Common Table. In that capacity, the Business Manager/Treasurer shall coordinate this work with the director of Connectional Ministries.

E. All conference program staff shall be employed by and amenable to the Common Table. The director of Connectional Ministries shall be responsible for the administration and direction of the program staff.

F. Administrative/Technical/Professional Staff of the Common Table shall be employed by the director of Connectional Ministries in consultation with the appropriate elected staff member as may be requested and as provision for same is made by the Common Table.

## IX. FINANCES

The Common Table shall present a budget to the Council on Finance and Administration to cover the expenses for the work of the Common Table and the boards and agencies, committees, commissions, task forces and other groups for which it is responsible. The right of the Annual Conference boards and agencies to be heard by the Council on Finance and Administration shall not be denied, as provided by *The Book of Discipline*.

## X. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the charter not in conflict with *The Book of Discipline* may be made by a majority vote of the Annual Conference and originate as follows:

(1) upon recommendation of the Common Table, or

(2) upon petition of a member of the Annual Conference at least 60 days prior to the next Annual Conference session.

The Common Table shall review the petition(s) and submit its recommendations to the Annual Conference together with the proposed amendment.

## XI. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHARTER

The Charter for the Common Table for Church Vitality shall become effective Jan. 1, 2006.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

### Committee on Resolutions

N.L. Bishop

Amanda Garber

Larry Lenow

Lynda Moore

Craig Newman

### Committee on Memoirs

Doug Hill

John Peters, Chair

Roy White

Elizabeth Wright

Ed Wright

### Tellers

Aaron Fitch, *Head Teller*

Janice Myers-Coleman, *Assistant Head Teller*

#### Clergy:

Alexandria District

Arlington District

Charlottesville District

Danville District

Eastern Shore District

Elizabeth River District

Farmville District

Fredericksburg District

Harrisonburg District

James River District

Lynchburg District

Richmond District

Roanoke District

Staunton District

Winchester District

York River District

Ryan Held

Kevin Havens

Steven King

Ken Cleveland

Bobbie Henley

Brent Seusy

June Carpenter

Janet Grissett

Sarah Calvert

Nathan Decker

Tammy Franklin

Mark Rooks

Stanley A. Thompson

Kenneth "Thad" Decker

Hun Su Lim

Eric Vaudt

#### Lay:

Robin BeMiller

Elton D. Minney

Carol Recknor

Jason Tate

Barbara Cousar

Rebecca Driscoll

Henry Hassell

Donna Sayre

Tom DeVore

Gene Mims

Fran Briley

Karen Albro

Karen Garrett

David Grimm

Carolyn Woodrum

Rick Jacobson

## THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

At the request of the bishop and the Common Table, the Rules Committee focused a good deal of attention this year on developing a Consent Agenda for sessions of the Annual Conference. This is a parliamentary procedure which allows the group to vote on a group of non-controversial items without discussion. A Consent Agenda has been used successfully at General Conference for many years and is also being implemented in several annual conferences. With Annual Conference being shortened this year, the committee thought it appropriate to look at the Consent Agenda as a way to allow the Annual Conference to focus more time on issues requiring discussion.

The committee looked at models for Consent Agendas from several annual conferences, and a task force developed a proposal which was endorsed by the Common Table. Basically it allows for the bishop, in consultation with a Consent Agenda Committee (composed of the conference Secretary, the conference Lay Leader, the chair of the Rules Committee, and the director of Connectional Ministries), to place on a Consent Agenda items distributed in pre-Annual Conference materials that require no action other than reception as reports. Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by a motion approved by the majority of the

Annual Conference at the first business session. That item would then be placed on the regular agenda.

If this change to the Rules is approved, it will be implemented at this (2012) Annual Conference.

In other items referred to it, the Rules Committee dealt with two requests from the Common Table. One was a change to the organization of the Personnel Committee that allowed the Common Table to appoint the chair of the Personnel Committee, rather than requiring the conference Lay Leader to serve as chair. Another change dealt with eliminating the nomination of standing alternates to the Common Table by the conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team. The Rules Committee endorsed these changes.

The Rules Committee also dealt with restructuring issues for two conference agencies. It is recommended that Section V.B. 16. (new numbering) be changed to reflect the reduction in the size of Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., from 30 to 24. The committee also approved changes to the responsibilities of the Directing Board of the Board of Discipleship in V.A.4.c. referred by the director of Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence. The Rules Committee also adopted a substitute paragraph concerning the Virginia United Methodist Foundation (V.B. 10.) that more fully reflected its structure and purpose.

At the request of the director of Congregational Excellence, the Rules Committee is recommending an addition to VI.D. that encourages districts to include lay persons from non-chartered faith communities in the members-at-large they elect to Annual Conference.

Other recommended changes to the Rules are basically editorial around the creation of the Bishops' Foundation and the reduction of number of districts from 18 to 16.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Insert and renumber: "II.E. CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda items and reports not requiring action by the Annual Conference other than a vote to receive said item for publication in the Journal, shall be placed on a Consent Agenda. For any item or report to be eligible for placement on the Consent Agenda, it must have been distributed in the pre-conference materials. Determination of items to be placed on the Consent Agenda shall be made annually by the bishop in consultation with the Consent Agenda Committee. This committee shall be composed of the conference Secretary, the conference Lay Leader, the chair of the Conference Rules Committee, and the director of Connectional Ministries. An individual item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by a motion to that effect which is approved by a majority of the members of the Annual Conference, provided that such motion must be presented and approved during the first business session of the Annual Conference. When an individual item has been removed from the Consent Agenda, it shall be placed into the regular agenda."

V.A.4.c. Replace the second paragraph with: "The Directing Board will consist of the following ten (10) members: three officers (chair, vice chair and secretary) to be elected by the Annual Conference, the chair of the Best Practices Group, the chair of the Connecting Group, and five (5) Regional Network Leads. In addition, the Bishops' Foundation will be represented by one person with voice but no vote. The Directing Board will select individuals to serve as leads of the Regional Network Teams. The Regional Network Leads will be ex officio members of the Directing Board with voice and vote."

Replace the fourth paragraph with: "Members of the Regional Network Teams will be selected by the Regional Network Leads, in consultation with the Directing Board, based upon best practices research."

Replace the fifth paragraph with: "Each age-level council will meet at least annually as the conference council for the respective ministry areas (with additional members as required by conference Rules and the *Book of Discipline*, if any) for: (a) sharing of the best practices in their regions, (b) training which will enhance their service to the faith communities within each region, (c) coordinating of conference programs and initiatives as appropriate, and (d) serving as resources to the Regional Network Teams."

V.A.4.d. Replace the second paragraph with: "The membership of the board shall be 20 with 6 or 4 persons (one-half lay and one-half clergy) elected each year to replace outgoing classes."

V.A.4.f. in the third sentence, change "eighteen (18) district lay leaders" to "sixteen (16) district lay leaders."

Insert and renumber: "V.B.3. **Bishops' Foundation.** There shall be a Bishops' Foundation whose purpose is to provide training for leadership development of both lay and clergypersons of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church in the areas of evangelism and preaching in the Wesleyan spirit, and whose Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) directors nominated by the Cabinet of the Virginia Conference and elected by the Annual Conference: five (5) clergy members and four (4) lay members serving for staggered terms of three (3) years after the initial term of 1, 2, and 3 years. The director of Connectional Ministries of the Virginia Conference or his/her designee will serve as an *ex officio* member of the Board of Directors."

V.B.10. Replace with: "V.B.11. There shall be a United Methodist Foundation organized with responsibilities as set forth in the *2008 Book of Discipline* ¶2513 and pursuant to the charter heretofore approved by the Annual Conference in 1970; eighteen (18) of the thirty (30) trustees shall be elected by the Annual Conference."

V.B.15. Change to V.B.16. and replace the first sentence with: "This agency, which is incorporated as Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., shall be composed of twenty-four (24) members in two classes serving eight-year terms. It is recommended that all classes consist of one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy. Any clergy member of the conference or lay member of a church within the conference who is a member of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall also be a member of the agency (*2008 Book of Discipline* ¶639.2a)

Delete the second paragraph.

VI.D. Insert after the second sentence: "Districts are encouraged to include members-at-large from non-chartered faith communities being served by clergy with voting rights at Annual Conference, provided that they meet the provisions of *2008 Book of Discipline* ¶602.4.

## Charter for the Common Table for Church Vitality

II.B. Change "Goodson Foundation and Stockton Academy of Evangelism" to "The Bishops' Foundation."

III. Delete the third sentence.

IV. After the first sentence, delete everything until the ninth sentence, beginning: "If a person is elected to fill an unexpired term ..." Delete the last sentence of the first paragraph. In the second paragraph, first sentence, delete "and no alternate exists."

VII. Replace the second sentence with: "The Common Table shall appoint the chair of the

Personnel Committee.”

In closing, I want to express deep appreciation for faithful service to Brenda Biler, Carl Bundick, Al Lynch and Nan Pointer, who are rotating off the Rules Committee, and to Patricia Jones, who is resigning.

*The Rev. Stephen G. Bray, Chair*

### THE COMMISSION ON ETHNIC MINORITY CONCERNS AND ADVOCACY

The Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA) continues to live into its new structure by identifying objectives and strategies in moving toward its mission of serving as a prophetic voice for the full and equal participation of ethnic and racial constituents into the total life and mission of the Virginia Conference. These objectives and strategies focus on three areas of emphasis:

- Leadership Excellence: Supporting clergy and laity in developing and strengthening the racial/ethnic church for witness and ministry.
- Congregational Excellence: Articulating ways to celebrate and strengthen our coming together on the local church, district and conference levels.
- Missional Excellence: Encouraging faith communities to reach beyond their walls in mission and global justice.

Highlights of work in specific racial/ethnic ministry areas during the 2011-2012 conference year include:

- The Working Group on Immigration by far the most ethnically and culturally diverse planning team for any event in the Virginia Conference, hosted the “Bishop’s Convocation: A Faith-Based Response to the Issue Surrounding Immigration” on Oct. 1, 2011, at Grace UMC in Manassas. Jim Perdue Burke, a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries working directly with the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, was the keynote speaker. The involvement of so many with diverse backgrounds in the planning and leadership of the event was a truly great accomplishment for our conference.

- On Jan. 9, a meeting of Latino pastors in the conference was held to accomplish three objectives: (1) development of a more formal support system for our Latino pastors; (2) establishment of teams to assist Anglo churches that desire to reach into the Latino communities around them; and (3) sharing stories of the transformational ministries that are happening in and through our Latino congregations. This was the first time that a gathering occurred on the conference level of only our pastors of Latino heritage and others directly involved in our Latino ministries. Previous meetings had included any and all persons interested in Latino ministry. This is a result of a desire among our Latino pastors to identify ways of offering greater support to one another.

- A full house of 85 participants representing congregations from across the conference filled the largest meeting space at the United Methodist Center in Glen Allen on Feb. 18 to hear Dr. Fred Allen, director of the denomination’s Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century (SBC21) ministry, talk about “crunch time” for making new disciples and moving the church forward. This event followed several years of Common Table support for an African American church resource team and specialized programming. The goal of this consultation with Dr. Allen was to begin a process of developing a strategic plan to better support and nurture leadership and congregational development in our existing predominantly African-American churches as well as to explore new church development possibilities in the Virginia Conference. Feedback and ideas offered during the consultation will be used along with work completed by various groups in recent years to identify next steps. As a result of the event, two of our predominantly African-American churches have started the process of becoming SBC21 Partner Congregations. This partnership provides for collaboration with Congregation Resource Centers across the denomination for training, direct coaching, empowerment and nurture.

- The Asian-American Pastors Association hosted a pilgrimage for spiritual renewal to Bupyeong Methodist Church in Incheon, South Korea. The event took place Oct. 27- Nov.

3, 2011. Under the co-leadership of Revs. M.J. Kim and Young Jin Cho, the pilgrimage was a prayer-based ministry intended for spiritual renewal by visiting and learning the fruits of the seeds American missionaries planted a century ago and experiencing contextual hands-on missions and ministries. CEMCA also offered financial support for the third Asian Pastors’ Family Retreat in December.

- The Conference Committee on Native American Ministries awarded two grants totaling \$9,600 from the Native American Ministries fund. These grants were provided to the Eastern Division of the Chickahominy Indians in support of cultural renewal work and the Lynchburg District (through Marsh Memorial UMC) for a Monacan Tribe Pow Wow event.

*The Rev. Larry Jent, Co-Chair*

### THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

The mission of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) is to challenge The United Methodist Church at all levels to work for full and equal participation of women in the total life of the denomination, including ordination of women, equal access to policy making and recognition that Jesus Christ calls men and women alike to salvation, liberation, discipleship and service in church and society. The Virginia Conference COSROW advocates for the full participation of lay and clergy women and girls at every level of church life. We also monitor all sessions of Annual Conference and conference committee meetings throughout the year to ensure that women are represented, heard, and given opportunities to serve.

At the 2011 Annual Conference, COSROW joined with the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy (CEMCA) and Commission on Disabilities (COD) to share the responsibility for monitoring the participation of women, minorities and persons with disabilities in the leadership roles of the church as represented by on-stage and at-the-microphone presence throughout Annual Conference. The statistics again showed that in planned segments, such as worship services and special reports, participation was fairly inclusive with evenly distributed involvement of clergy and lay, men and women. Moreover, we are pleased to report that there was a 3 percent increase in minority participation and 12.5 percent increase in youth/young adult participation from the previous year. These increases are commendable, but if we are to reflect God’s diversity we need to encourage opportunities for all God’s people to come to the table. It continues that in most reports from groups and during speeches from the floor of Annual Conference, the participants were overwhelmingly male and clergy.

The following chart summarizes the overall averages of 2011 Annual Conference participation by categories of interest to the Virginia Conference:

Category	Monitored Sessions – Average throughout Conference
Female	35.7%
Male	64.3%
Racial/Ethnic	15.7%
Youth and Young Adult	21%
Clergy	47%
Laity	53%

During the past year, Virginia Conference COSROW continued to use green communication tools such as e-mailing every clergy woman a copy of *The Flyer*, a newsletter published by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW). Available through the GCSRW website <[www.gcsrw.org](http://www.gcsrw.org)>, along with a variety of awareness and training information, *The Flyer* offers updates on women’s issues and provides suggestions for relevant resources.

While COSROW also uses teleconferencing tools when possible to minimize in-person meetings, we also recognize the value of gathering in person to share our stories and encourage each other in our mission. We look forward to meeting jointly with CEMCA and COD in September to discuss our common concerns of inclusivity for all God’s children in The United Methodist Church.

*Shan Sixbey, Co-Chair*

## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Conference Board of Trustees met for its regularly scheduled meetings plus an additional conference-call meeting.

Following the 2011 Annual Conference, Bishop Kammerer appointed an Episcopal Residence Building Committee, which worked in conjunction with the Conference Board of Trustees, to discern the best location for a new episcopal residence. Given the options (1) of purchasing an already constructed house which met conference parsonage housing standards, ADA requirements, and certification as a “green” house with energy efficiency, (2) purchasing an already constructed house and re-structuring the house to meet the same standards previously described; or (3) building a new episcopal residence, it was determined that the building of a new residence would be the optimum choice. The location, recommended by the Episcopal Residence Building Committee, Triple Oaks subdivision, in Hanover County, approximately a 15-minute drive from the United Methodist Center in Glen Allen, was agreed upon by the conference Board of Trustees. The Episcopal Residence Building Committee recommended a Kensington model floor plan with modifications, to be built by Main Street Homes. This also was acceptable to the Board of Trustees. The contract was signed by officers of the Trustees, and the ground-breaking has taken place. We anticipate that the new episcopal residence will be completed by Aug. 1, 2012.

The current episcopal residence was to be placed on the market for sale in May.

Most of the planned repairs and upgrades to the United Methodist Conference Center have been completed. Solar panels have been installed and dedicated.

The Conference Trustees continue to move forward in addressing property issues related to discontinued and/or abandoned churches in the Virginia Conference.

The Articles of Incorporation of the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church are currently in the process of being amended in order to be in agreement with *The 2008 Book of Discipline*.

It was with deep sadness that the Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Edwin Harless, who served faithfully on the board for many years. In addressing the vacancy created by Ed Harless’ resignation, the Board of Trustees elected William “Bill” Long to fill the vacancy until Annual Conference.

James E. Hedrick Sr., vice president of the Conference Trustees, claimed the promise of the Resurrection on November 9, 2011. We give thanks to God for Jim’s years of faithful service to the conference Trustees.

With Jim Hedrick’s death, a vacancy was created; the Board of Trustees elected Patricia “Pat” Wright to fill the vacancy until Annual Conference.

*The Rev. Sallye E. H. Bowen, President*

## THE EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE BUILDING COMMITTEE

The 2011 Annual Conference approved a recommendation to establish an Episcopal Residence Building Committee to either purchase an existing home that meets conference Parsonage Guidelines, ADA requirements, and is energy-efficient, or purchase an existing home with a plan to renovate to meet the previously listed standards, or purchase a tract of land on which to construct a new home.

Bishop Kammerer appointed the following Episcopal Residence Building Committee: Lee Sheaffer (chair), Tommy Herndon, Shirley Huffman, Craig Lane, Albert Lee, Kirk Nave, Martha Dodd-Slippery, Pat Wright and David Dommissie (conference staff). The committee met for the first time on July 27, 2011. It explored homes available for purchase or renovation to meet the required standards within a 20-mile radius of the United Methodist Center in Glen Allen. After extensive exploration and research it was determined that no homes meeting the required standards were currently available. The committee then explored construction companies for possible sites and plans to meet the desired results.

The committee kept the conference Board of Trustees, the Episcopal Committee and CFA informed of its actions after each meeting. After due diligence the committee recommended that a contract be entered with Main Street Homes to construct a Kensington house on a

one-and-a-half acre lot in the Triple Oaks Subdivision, which is eight miles from the United Methodist Center, north on Staples Mills Road (U.S. 33). The house will be fully handicapped accessible, meets ADA requirements, and qualifies for Star Energy Efficient certification.

The conference Episcopal Committee and CFA approved the recommendation. The Conference Board of Trustees approved the recommendation on Dec. 2, 2011, and authorized two members of its board to enter a contract with Main Street Homes for the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Conference.

The present episcopal residence went on the market on May 15. The new episcopal residence is scheduled to be completed with closure scheduled for Aug. 1.

The 2011 Annual Conference further authorized that CFA would make available up to \$200,000 for securing the newly constructed residence and selling the present residence. It is anticipated that this will be accomplished for under \$100,000.

*The Rev. Lee Sheaffer, Chair*

## THE CABINET

The conference year began with a redistricting plan, reducing the number of districts in the Virginia Conference from 18 to 16. This resulted in the realignment of churches on districts. Transitioning into these new relationships often required decisions related to shared leadership, property, gathering space and the rhythms of ministry. It also provided an opportunity to be reminded of our connectional relationships and our mission “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” as we celebrate shared ministry.

Last summer, the Cabinet learned of the Vital Congregations project. Following a study commissioned by The United Methodist Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table to better identify the key activities of vital congregations, the Council of Bishops, issued a Call to Action report. The 2011 charge conference season was focused on sharing resources and the expectation that each local church would be submitting numeric and narrative goals for the next quadrennium related to worship attendance, professions of faith, new members, small groups and mission giving. Bishop Kammerer presented the Virginia Conference goals as an offering at the 2012 General Conference. Dialogue is taking place to ensure a singular focus for the Virginia Conference, with regard to the Vital Congregations project and the conference *All Things New: Fruitful and Multiplying*.

In April 2011, the Cabinet partnered with the Board of Ordained Ministry to develop a process to fulfill *Book of Discipline* ¶430.4 (preparation for clergy and congregations for cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments). A Cross-Cultural/Cross-Racial Resource Team has been formed to offer ongoing cultural competency training and support to: 1) Clergy entering or serving in cross-cultural/cross-racial appointments; 2) Lay leadership in churches receiving cross-cultural/cross-racial appointments; 3) The Board of Ordained Ministry and District Committees of Ordained Ministry; and 4) The Cabinet. Kaleidoscope, Inc., trained this Resource Team on June 12 and again on September 24-26. The Cabinet, conference Board of Ordained Ministry and District Committees of Ordained Ministry will be trained Sept. 27. The Cabinet is developing a process for making cross-cultural/cross-racial appointments and support systems for the pastors and churches involved. The Fredericksburg District is developing a cross-cultural immersion experience for clergy and laity to grow in their cultural competency. As the communities around our churches continue to grow in diversity, we must be prepared and ready to welcome pastors and community members of all different cultures and races. The kingdom of God depends on us.

Finally, at this 2012 Annual Conference, we thank God for the ministry of Bishop Charlene Kammerer and her husband, Leigh. Through their faithful, indefatigable leadership over the past eight years, we have seen the grace of God, heard the words of Christ as all are welcomed to the table, and have been touched by humble servant leadership. May God bless their continuing journey.

*The Rev. Dr. Brenda J. Biler, Dean*

## THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Board of Ordained Ministry is called to identify, examine, develop and support those persons who would lead the Church in making disciples for the transformation of the world, in the order of elder, the Virginia diaconate (which includes the order of deacon, diaconal ministers and deaconesses) and the fellowship of local pastors and associate members, and the various fields of certified professionals. Our full report on those who are recommended for licensing, associate membership, commissioning and ordination has been reported to the clergy executive session for its action.

On Jan. 1, 2012, the conference launched the new Center for Clergy Excellence, where the Board of Ordained Ministry will now reside. The Rev. Beth Downs is the director of Clergy Excellence. This new center will provide resourcing to develop, train and support clergy leaders in light of the conference's core values of excellence and fruitfulness. The center will collaborate with the other ministry centers related to the Common Table as new initiatives are developed.

In the 2011 clergy age trends report of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, the Virginia Conference has the highest number of young clergy under the age of 35 among conferences in the United States. We are also in the top 10 with the highest percentage of young clergy under the age of 35.

The *Calling 21* program continues to cultivate local churches that will serve as calling congregations and host summer interns; this summer there will be seven interns serving these faith communities: Basic, Braddock Street, Spirit and Life, St. John's (Eastern Shore), St. Luke's (York River) and Williamsburg. An exploration event for high school students, called SERVE, will be held in Virginia, in partnership with Randolph Macon College, and will be held Aug. 5-7. You can register at <[www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)>.

Following a study by a joint task force between the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Cabinet, we have begun to use the Emotional and Social Competency Inventory (ESCI-U) in order to evaluate more carefully the interpersonal skills of candidates for ministry.

In the areas of development and support, we have two new initiatives: The Virginia Conference has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the General Commission on Religion and Race to develop and train a cross-cultural/cross-racial resource team. This initiative emerged from a partnership between the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Cabinet, with assistance from Martha Stokes, conference director of Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence. During the next six months, specialists will work with the team members to equip them for their ministry. The new team will offer cultural competency training and support to clergy and lay leadership in cross-cultural/cross-racial appointments, the Board of Ordained Ministry, district committees on ordained ministry and the Cabinet.

In the church size initiatives, two-day training was held for large church lead pastors and church staffs in the fall of 2011. The next event for large church lead pastors will be on Oct. 31 with a focus on preaching, led by the Rev. Dr. James Howell of Myers Park UMC in Charlotte, N.C. The mid-size church lead pastors gather annually; their next event will be on Nov. 1 with a focus on strategic planning, goal-setting, and leading change, led by Dr. Gil Rendle. A new small church leadership team, formed in partnership with the Center for Lay Leadership Excellence, will begin its work in July.

This year, a task group developed resources and sample job descriptions for associate pastors. These can be found at the conference website, <[www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)>. In support of seminary students, we gave Pell Grants, service loans and scholarships totaling \$89,000 to 23 persons during 2011.

God continues to summon spiritual leaders to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Persons who are interested in pursuing God's call to clergy leadership are encouraged to contact their local church pastor, district superintendent or the Center for Clergy Excellence.

The following persons have been approved for professional certification: Children's Ministry – Patricia T. Granberg; Older Adult Ministry – Annette Pomeroy.

*The Rev. Jeffrey P. Mickel, Chair*

## THE BOARD OF LAITY

Since the 2011 Annual Conference approved our restructuring, we have been living into this new structure for our ministry to the laity in the Virginia Conference. We continue to be advocates for laity in all areas of ministry. Our hope and prayer is that all laity will be equipped and empowered to help lead the church in transforming the world as disciples for Jesus Christ.

The conference Board of Laity helped to create a culture of call by sponsoring a one-day VocationCARE Event on March 24 at Good Shepherd UMC. The event was led by the Rev. Alan Combs and the Rev. Jessie Squires and was attended by teams from districts.

Having been approved by the 2011 Annual Conference, the three new teams of Engaging, Equipping and Empowering began their work in the fall of 2011:

The Engaging Team (Holistic Stewardship), led by Bob Forrest, met in September to plan its work for the future. The team focused on teaching about God's gifts, and how to form a stronger call for laity. It is part of our tradition to "offer them Christ" and remember our commitment of our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. To further strengthen the mentoring between the district lay leaders and local lay leaders, better training and improved communications were proposed. It is the goal of each team to partner with the clergy to live out God's call to transform the world.

The Equipping Team, led by Kathy Lutman, continues to explore and live into this new structure. Several first year goals have been set:

- Training of new district Lay Leaders;
- Working with conference staff to resource Leadership Development and Nominations Committees;
- Inventorying current training opportunities and resources and having them listed on the conference website;
- Supporting the directors of Lay Speaking Ministries in developing new training opportunities through the Lay Servants Academy.

In the upcoming year the team will strive to educate and make available additional leadership training and resources for the equipping of the laity of the Virginia Conference.

The Board of Laity started working on empowering over a decade ago with the new leadership style of "Partners in Ministry," which focused on lay-clergy partnership in shared ministry. Under the new structure the Empowering Team, led by Darlene Amon, established several certainties: 1) In God's design ALL baptized Christians are called into ministry; 2) Laity need to stop being complacent and realize ministry is more than serving on a committee; 3) Clergy must train laity for ministry according to their gifts, then let go of the task so laity can serve; 4) Partnership includes trust, relationship, win-win, etc.

The Empowering Team is also working on a training piece suitable for districts and local churches, which will emphasize the above realities. To effectively deliver this instrument, the team conducted a survey of the current methods of communication used in our districts. The results follow: power point and DVD is best for training; computer is best for gathering information; district newsletters and hand-outs are the best avenues for sharing Lay Speaking information, and the percentage of local church lay leaders with computers range from 50 to 95 percent.

The Empowering Team looks forward to sharing this new training material during the upcoming year for we are all called into ministry!

Lay Speaking Ministries, led by Johnnie Draughon, have adopted the name "Lay Servants" in the Virginia Conference. We know that our more than 1,500 Certified Lay Speakers (CLS) and Local Lay Speakers (LLS) are involved in all aspects of ministry in their local churches, districts and the conference. Our lay speakers are using their spiritual gifts to teach, sing, tell stories, lead small groups, chair and serve on committees, and serve on mission teams – locally, nationally, and internationally. Many have been called to minister to our shut-ins, prisoners, children, the homeless, serve as Supply and Certified Lay Ministers, all helping to "Make disciples for the transformation of the world."



There are 19 Advanced Lay Speaking courses in leading, caring and communicating ministries which provide an ideal foundation for supporting the Board of Laity's structure of engaging, equipping and empowering the laity of the Virginia Conference. To that end we have opened our more than 80 Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking courses at the conference and district levels to anyone desiring to learn more about a particular ministry. Our prayer is that many of these students, after learning about the many types of ministry available through the program, will elect to pursue certification as a lay speaker. Since we just started this program actual numbers are not available – we did have 40 non-CLSs take advanced courses at the 2012 academy. We also try to expose our CLSs to a wide assortment of ministry opportunities during shared fellowship time at our training events and by providing opportunities for various ministries to address our students. We have also invited other ministries to provide their advance training simultaneously during academy.

Paul reminds us in Roman's 10 of the prophet Isaiah's words, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news." Our prayer is that the laity of the Virginia Conference will all have "beautiful feet."

For the last three years the Lay Servant Academy, led by David Bailey, has continued to gradually change its focus along with the direction set conference-wide by the district directors of Lay Speaking and approved by the Board of Laity. First was to engage prospective lay speakers in roles that were broader than just filling the pulpit as a substitute. Next we added emphasis moved to equip more laity than just lay speakers using the existing curriculum and allowing persons to participate that were not necessarily on the track for certification as a lay speaker. The most recent addition was to empower lay servants to explore other ministries by offering mini-courses that allowed participants to sample six different topics in the weekend or concentrate on one area with a full ten-hour class. Twenty-five percent of the attendees this year chose the mini-courses. This has encouraged us to develop recommendations for more diverse course offerings in future Lay Servant Academies.

Gifts have been presented to outgoing District Lay Leaders Susie Wolf (Farmville) and Becky Breeding (Harrisonburg). District Lay Leader pins were presented to Johnnie Morris (Farmville), Gene Cross (Arlington) and Rodney Bussard (Harrisonburg).

As my term as Virginia Conference Lay Leader comes to an end, I want to express my thanks to all of those who have served on the Board of Laity over the last six years and for your love and support for me. I want to thank Bishop Kammerer for her constant support and care. Without Martha Stokes and Cindy Ingroff, I would not have been able to do this important work and I thank them for all the many ways they have been supportive and helpful. I also thank the Rev. Marc Brown and all of the conference staff — you are amazing! And to all of you across this wonderful annual conference, I thank you for your support and for your prayers. Please continue to call me if I can be of assistance.

*Shirley Cauffman, Conference Lay Leader*

### **THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN**

The primary purpose of United Methodist Men (UMMen) is to declare the centrality of Christ in the lives of men and in all their relationships. Accordingly, Virginia Conference United Methodist Men works with district organizations in developing programs to meet the needs and interests of men of all ages.

Our districts have adjusted to the realignment of going from 18 to 16 districts. We have district presidents in 14 of those 16 districts. Our chartered fellowships have dropped below 300, which is alarming, as we have 1,192 local United Methodist congregations in our conference. We had 341 charters in 2008 and need to achieve that goal again. Charters are a very important part of the organization of the UMMen. The charter is the connective link that binds all of our local units together in ministry and provides the major source of the funding of our General Commission of the United Methodist Men, which in turn can provide the needed resources for doing ministry together. It is through chartering that the General Commission raises more than 78 percent of its operational budget and could, with some effort toward chartering, become the only commission that is self-funded.

Virginia UMMen continues support and advocacy of the Heart Haven's homes to reach out to those with intellectual challenges in life. Our online fund-raising campaign for Heart Haven's Endowment Fund for the ongoing maintenance of the existing and future Heart Haven's homes did not meet the anticipated expectation. We will continue efforts to increase the Endowment Fund until the goal is achieved.

Last year we signed a covenant agreement at Annual Conference establishing Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry (DBOM) in the Virginia Conference. This is a prison ministry of taking the *Disciple* Bible studies to those in prison. I am pleased to report DBOM of Virginia is on the move. It has achieved 501(c) 3 status and trained and certified a core of men and women to go into the prisons. We have identified the following prisons and juvenile correctional centers to have the *Disciple* Bible study in this year: Beaumont Juvenile, Deep Meadow, Dillwyn, three units at Greensville, the Virginia Correctional Center for Women and Sussex II. These facilities already have *Disciple* Bible study or are slated to begin the study.

The Wesleyan Building Brothers process completed the second generation of Spiritual Fathers and has moved into the third generation. This process enables men to experience first-hand spiritual formation of the heart, the pursuit of God and the full meaning of what is a mature follower of Jesus Christ. The revitalizing aspect of the process affects not only the men in the process but also reaches into the homes, churches and community.

Virginia United Methodist Men believe strongly in making Jesus Christ the center of our lives. We are adamant about "being" disciples so that we can fulfill the great commission to "go and make disciples." It is in that Christ's power that we endeavor to "be doers of the word and not hearers only." It is through this transformation of the hearts of men that we work to fulfill the vision set forth by the Virginia Conference and The United Methodist Church.

*Jim Green, President*

### **THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

The 2011-2012 goals were set by the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women (UMW) Executive Committee to help us live out and exemplify for others our vision of "Turning Faith, Hope, and Love into Action" on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world. Strongly believing in more prayer more power, we committed to utilize the Prayer Calendar and encourage all members to join us praying daily for mission personnel and projects and our church and conference leaders. Our districts and local churches are drawn closer to God and to each other through Bible studies, district prayer breakfasts, spiritual life retreats, and prayer partners between conference Mission Team members and their counterparts among the districts.

The districts and local churches are where most of the work of the UMW is done. The conference UMW has provided opportunities for learning about leadership through officer training, about mission at the School of Christian Mission (co-sponsored with the conference Board of Global Ministries), about engaging in social action at United Methodist Day at the General Assembly, and about spiritual growth at the Spiritual Life Retreat — all of which are enhanced by a strong Reading Program. Annual events are intended to inspire us to live out our vision. The frequent communications between mission team members and their counterparts sharpen the focus on our vision and strengthen and encourage us to achieve our goals.

At the July 2011 School of Christian Mission, participants had the opportunity to attend two studies: The Journey: forgiveness, restorative justice and reconciliation and either the study of Haiti, challenges and hope or Joy to the World. Newsletters from the districts indicate many of the districts and local churches held mini-schools of mission on one or more of the topics studied.

The theme for the 39th conference annual meeting was "All Things New In Christ: Walk with Wholeness." Dr. Jennifer Braaten, president of Ferrum College and our keynote speaker, gave an inspirational and motivational presentation that was held in high regard by the assembly. The 16 district presidents were introduced to the assembly after processing in, each wearing a red sash with her district monogrammed in black. This provided an

opportunity to identify the 16 districts that emerged from the redistricting process at 2011 Annual Conference. This meant in a number of cases new elections of officers, necessitating additional officer training in July at the close of the School of Christian Mission. New standing rules were written, monies transferred to new districts, and other adjustments made while new bonds of friendship were being formed. New district names — Elizabeth River, James River, York River, and Fredericksburg — appeared while older names — Ashland, Norfolk, Peninsula, Petersburg, Portsmouth, and Rappahannock — disappeared. Committees of hard-working women worked diligently to ensure that the new district leadership, where possible, was representative of the new configuration of churches. Celebrations were held by the newly formed districts to elect and install officers, adopt new budgets, adopt new standing rules, and be inspired by a speaker.

The 2012 March Mission Team and Executive Committee meetings were held in Portsmouth. A much-needed canned food offering was made to Wesley Service Center and a re-consecration service held. The Mission Team planted biennials/perennials while there.

Conference UMW Mission Giving in 2011 was \$1,135,477. 52. This includes \$738,459.47 for Women's Division projects, \$114,020.84 for supplemental, national, and international projects, and \$282, 997.21 for Virginia projects. It is truly astonishing how much mission and outreach is made possible because of the dedicated effort and leadership of United Methodist Women in local churches.

A busy time lies ahead with more opportunities to make a difference to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To God be the glory for all we achieve.

*Olivia T. Hinton, President*

### **THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SECRETARIES, VIRGINIA CHAPTER**

The purpose of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) is to provide a supportive base for the unity and fellowship of its members in order to provide individual growth, professional development, continuous education and spiritual enrichment. PAUMCS promotes and encourages the training and support of United Methodist church secretaries; serves as an advocate for emerging concerns that affect church secretaries; encourages and assists in the establishment of chapters of church secretaries, within or across jurisdictional and annual conference boundaries, and assists in coordinating the program and work of these chapters.

The Virginia Chapter of PAUMCS was established in 1999 at Blackstone. Since that time, membership has grown to as many as 90 members and an all time high of 130 attendees at a fall event at the United Methodist Center in Glen Allen. The chapter sponsors two meetings each year: normally, a one-day fall training event and a two-day spring spiritual growth retreat.

Members are persons presently or previously, full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer, engaged in administrative work in any local church or agency of The United Methodist Church.

During the past conference year, Virginia PAUMCS:

- Had one member attend PAUMCS Certification Institute at Nashville. Susan Fawcett from Fredericksburg UMC received her certification at the National PAUMCS Conference in Richmond.
- In August distributed a six-page mailing, including a letter of invitation from Bishop Kammerer, to the administrative staff of the 1,200 charges of the Virginia Conference.
- On Oct. 5 held our "Experience Your Conference Connection" event featuring Stephanie Davis, Virginia Conference archivist, and Tami J. Wyrick, executive director of the Virginia Crime Prevention Association, at the conference center, with 65 in attendance.
- Hosted the national PAUMCS conference, April 12-15, at the Hilton Hotel at Short Pump in Richmond. Highlights of the conference included a Stop Hunger Now food packaging event; special guest speakers the Rev. Marc Brown, the Rev. John Briggs, Mrs. Kathy Merry, the Rev. Dan Garrett and the Rev. Al Horton; preaching from Bishop Charlene Kammerer and

the Rev. Myrtle Francis Hatcher; dinner and a tour of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; and a historical bus tour including Monument Avenue, the Virginia Capitol and St. John's Church. More than 200 PAUMCS members from across the country participated.

• In early 2011 lost two long-time, dedicated members: Petersburg District Secretary Wanda "Sam" Perkinson and Ashland District Secretary Marilyn "Lyn" Robeson. Virginia PAUMCS still feels their presence as we suffer their loss.

*Susan Mundell Petrey, President*

### **THE CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

*Chairpersons:*

Marc Brown, *director of Connectional Ministries*

Shirley Cauffman, *Conference Lay Leader*

Alexandria – Sue Boltz	Arlington – Richard Dawson
Charlottesville – Richard McDowell	Danville – Beth McLemore
Eastern Shore – Harold White	Elizabeth River – Danny J. Kesner
Farmville – Carol Sanger	Fredericksburg – Teresa Smith
Harrisonburg – Monty Cox	James River – Sally McGrath
Lynchburg – James W. Martin	Richmond – Maxine Mallory
Roanoke – Tim Tate	Winchester – Mike Kendall
Staunton – Susan Allen	York River – Doug Gestwick

### **NOMINATIONS**

#### **Common Table for Church Vitality**

Pat Inge– *Mission and New Churches (Lay)*

Sonja Oliver– *Inclusivity*

Todd Schlechty– *Mission and New Churches (Clergy)*

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

*Clergy*

Marilyn Heckstall

Scott Hopkins

Eduardo Carrillio

David Roane

James Templeton

*Lay*

Cecil Creasy

Juanito Csontos

Hunter Mabry

#### **Church Development Team**

Lynne Alley-Grant

Carl Perez

Susie Wolf

#### **Board of Discipleship**

*Directing Board:*

Don Jamison

Patricia Meadows

Justin White

*Conference Awareness Team, Best Practices Group*

Ed Clever

*Young Adult Council*

Jim Fry

*Older Adult Council*

Francis Bertrand

Sara Hudson

Annie Leigh Pierce

**Board of Global Ministries**

*Clergy*  
Judy Fender  
Wayne Parsley  
Rebecca Rumburg

*Lay*  
Lauren Austin  
Amy Johnson  
Robin Lee  
Erin McKenney  
Colleen Meiser

**Board of Higher Education Ministries**

Herb Brynildsen  
Ward Campbell  
Deborah Lewis  
Tracy Fitzsimmons  
Elizabeth Ecklund

**Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center**

Calvin Hughes  
Bill Pike  
Gene Tatum

**Virginia United Methodist Communications**

*Clergy*  
Kenneth Armstrong  
Marc Roberson  
Jacob Sahms

*Lay*  
Susan Petrey  
Bill Sterling

**Commission on Disabilities**

*Clergy*  
Doug Hollenbeck  
Stephen Lee

*Lay*  
Barbara Mason  
Shaun Smith  
Norma Turner

**Committee on the Episcopacy.**

*Clergy*  
Rachel May  
John B. Peters  
Patricia L. Shipley  
Elizabeth von Trapp Walker  
Thomas M. Berlin,  
(*Jurisdictional Committee*)

*Lay*  
John P. Clarke  
Ronald L. Hardman  
Warren Hottle  
Sung-Il Yoo  
Anita Jackson  
TBD, *Conference Lay Leader*  
Shirley Cauffman, *Chair*  
(*Jurisdictional Committee*)

**Equitable Compensation Commission**

*Clergy*  
Jason Bryant  
Craig Newman

*Lay*  
Herbert Goodman  
Tom Neally  
Benjamin Rivera

**Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy**

*Clergy*  
Janet Grissett

*Lay*  
Russell Busch

Rita Kanten

Jacqueline de Los Rios  
Harold White Jr.

*At Large*  
John Miller  
Karen Sandoval

**Council on Finance and Administration**

*Clergy*  
Will White

*Lay*  
Betty Forbes  
Lee Judy  
Miran Kim  
Tom Thompson

**Board of Ordained Ministry**  
(*Nominated by the Bishop*)

*Third Four-Year Term*  
Jonathan L. Bennett  
Frances T. Cooper  
Creed S. “Bud” Davis Jr.  
Bradley S. Dulaney  
J. Douglas Forrester  
Youtha Hardman-Cromwell  
Lorenzo D. Hill  
Anita G. Jackson – *Laity*  
Merribeth Neal – *Laity*  
Edward R. Walker

*Second Four-Year Term*  
Lynne Alley-Grant  
Herbert Brynildsen  
Robert E. Cooper  
James G. Daniely  
Travis L. DeLoach  
Clara P. Gestwick  
F. W. “Chip” Giessler  
F. Elizabeth Givens  
R. Douglas Gunsalus  
Alexander B. Joyner  
John J. Kelchner Jr.  
Mary Ann Kral – *Laity*  
Frank H. Lasley Jr. – *Laity*  
Brenda L. Laws  
Michele Manning retiring  
Edward S. Martin Jr.  
Christina R. McLain  
William B. Montgomery  
Douglas B. Paysour  
Dawn Peck – *Laity*  
Martha T. Reynolds – *Laity*  
Matthew G. Smith  
Moonsup “Paul” Song  
Gayle Thornberry (FL)  
Kenneth Stephen Waclo  
Philip M. Waltz

*First Four-Year Term*

Timothy A. Beck  
Tilden W. Bridges  
Clarence R. Brown  
Joseph J. Cailles  
James H. Carey Jr.  
Daniel E. Elmore  
Jessica L. Fuller  
Susan M. Hannah  
Stephen D. Hay  
Donna C. Holder  
Rachel Hundley – *Laity*  
Seonyoung Kim  
Won Gyu Lee  
Meredith McNabb  
Gary C. Miller (AM)  
Judy Moughon – *Laity*  
Sue Parks – *Laity*  
Susan M. Reaves  
Brandon P. Robbins  
Lydia E. Rodriguez  
Ileana Rosario  
Joan M. Rudisill  
Tom Slippy – *Laity*  
Linda Tompkins – *Laity*  
Christy Haga Turner  
Willie Weigand – *Laity*  
Christian S. White, Jr.  
Susie Wolf – *Laity*

**United Methodist Foundation**

<i>Clergy</i>	<i>Lay</i>
Michael Copeland	Robert Heely
David Rash	Gus Paulette
William Ricketts	Carson Saunders

**Board of Pensions**

<i>Clergy</i>	<i>Lay</i>
Cathy Abbott	Berkley Ashby
Brenda Biler	Dawn Chatin
Theresa McRoberts	Mike Earman
Amos Rideout	Mike Finnegan
Bruce Tuttle	Glen Getz
	Terry Jenkins
	Rebecca Lydens
	Ken Peterson
	Cathy Powers
	Mary Stroh
	Bill Talley

**Committee on Rules**

<i>Clergy</i>	<i>Lay</i>
Pam Seeley	Terry Bain
Jim Smith	Catherine Bolton

Bart Weakly  
Devin Livingston

John Hill

**Site Selection Committee**

<i>Clergy</i>	<i>Lay</i>
Steve Hundley	David Bailey

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

*Lay*  
Janae House  
Shan Sixbey

**Conference Trustees**

*Lay*  
Beth Godwin-Jones  
B. Leigh Drewry

**Committee on Minutes**

*(nominated by Cabinet)*

<i>Clergy</i>	<i>Lay</i>
Joanna Deitz	Robert Stephens
Stan Thompson	Willie Weigand

**Bishops' Foundation**

<i>Clergy</i>	<i>Lay</i>
David Rash	Pat Wright
Patricia Meadows	

**Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corp.**

<i>Clergy</i>	<i>Lay</i>
Dwayla Ferrell	Jim Branscome
Ernest T. Herndon	Alton Echols
	Robert Hinkle
	Ronald Miller

**Society of St. Andrew**

*(nominated by Cabinet)*

Gil Hanke  
Nancy Hein  
Jim Tongue

**Preachers' Relief Society**

Robert N. Baker III  
Katherine Kidwell

**Randolph College**

Cathy Havener Greer  
Carol J. Haley  
Karen K. Patterson  
David H. Street

**Randolph-Macon Academy**

Eric D. Anderson  
Harry G. Austin III

Donna J. Bogart  
Henry D. Light  
John D. Stufflebeem

**Randolph-Macon College**

Bruce J. Adkins  
William F. Carne  
Cynthia H. Lee  
Timothy P. O'Brien  
Susan D. Schick  
Lee B. Spencer Jr.  
Kathryn V. Stottlemeyer  
Sanjay Tandon

**Virginia Wesleyan College**

Alexandra G. Arias  
Deborah Paxson  
Joseph D. Carson

**THE SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE**

By previous Annual Conference action, the following dates have been recommended for the site of Virginia Annual Conference:

<b>Hampton</b>	<b>June 21-23, 2013</b>
<b>Hampton</b>	<b>June 20-22, 2014</b>
<b>Roanoke</b>	<b>June 19-21, 2015</b>
<b>Roanoke</b>	<b>June 17-19, 2016</b>

The Site Selection Committee is charged with finding a location for Annual Conference which is set five years in advance. The recommendation of the Site Selection Committee is:

<b>Hampton</b>	<b>June 16-18, 2017</b>
<b>Hampton</b>	<b>June 15-17, 2018</b>

We have had a number of requests to look at holding Annual Conference in Richmond. While Richmond is more centrally located, there are challenges that would have to be met. Among these are: room rates, parking fees and spaces, number and proximity of hotels, meeting facility space needs and ease of movement for 3,000 people in downtown Richmond. While the Site Selection Committee is recommending Hampton, we would like to have the body indicate its preference between Richmond and Hampton.

As a reminder, in order for the Virginia Conference to recommend a site, we have the following criteria that need to be met:

- Meeting space and restaurants for 4,000 people;
- Parking spaces for 2,000 to 3,000 cars;
- 1,500 hotel rooms;
- Meeting space for Clergy Executive Session for 1,000 people;
- Meeting space for Laity Session for 1,000 people;
- Two banquet areas for 500 people;
- Break-out areas and display area of 30,000 square feet;
- Ease of moving participants between the various areas.

**Comparison Chart for Richmond and Hampton**

SESSIONS	<u>HAMPTON</u> Hampton Roads Convention Center Halls B and C	<u>RICHMOND</u> Richmond Coliseum
PARKING	2,500 spaces Free at Convention Center; Free parking at all hotels	500 spaces free in Downtown Richmond close to Coliseum; Average of \$11 per day parking at hotels
SHUTTLES	Free shuttles to/from all hotels and Convention Center; Free city shuttle	\$5 per room night for shuttles to and from downtown hotels to/from Coliseum
LODGING	Hotel rates ranging from \$55 to \$169 per night plus tax; free breakfasts at all hotels	Hotel rates ranging from \$70 to \$155 per room per night plus tax; free breakfasts at some hotels
FOOD	Breakfast, lunch, dinner, banquets and concessions at Convention Ctr.; discounts at Peninsula Town Center restaurants	Breakfast, lunch, dinner and banquets at Marriott Hotel ballrooms; concessions at Coliseum; many restaurants downtown
WiFi	Free in all hotels and Convention Center	Free in some hotels; free in Coliseum
DISPLAYS	Convention Center Hall A	Coliseum Concourse
AMENITIES	Accessibility via I-64 and I-664; 50% discount on facility fee.	Accessibility via I-95 and I-64; More centrally located within state

As preparations are made for Annual Conference in Hampton next year, please be aware that the location of 2013 Annual Conference will be in the **Hampton Convention Center** rather than the Hampton Coliseum. This change in meeting venue will address accessibility concerns that have been raised by the Commission on Disabilities, as well as other members of the conference.

*The Rev. Doug Geeting, President*

**THE EQUITABLE COMPENSATION COMMISSION**

The purpose of the Commission on Equitable Compensation is to support clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the Virginia Conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations.

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 the minimum salary for the pastors. Salary and pension supplementation in the amount of \$410,571 (salary \$354,733 and pension \$125,040) was provided to 48 charges in 2011. A schedule of salary and pension supplementation appropriations for 2011 has been provided to the conference secretary for publication in the conference *Journal*.

There were three charges receiving salary and pension supplementation in 2011 that will not require assistance in 2012. These are Galloway (Arlington), Potts Valley (Staunton) and Asbury Memorial (Richmond) United Methodist churches. There are five charges receiving salary and pension supplementation in the first six months of 2012 that will not require assistance for the second half of 2012. These are Ridgeway (Danville), Hispanos Unidos (Roanoke), Amor y Paz (Winchester), Immanuel (Alexandria), and Cheriton (Eastern Shore)

UMCs. 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 2012 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 2013 is \$62,205 which is an increase of 0.1 percent over 2012. The commission considered Minimum Compensation and the Floor Schedule for 2013 and recommends no change as outlined below for 2013.

*The Rev. James C. Sprouse, Chair*

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Equitable Compensation Fund apportionment for 2013 be \$550,000.
2. The Minimum Compensation Schedule for 2013 be:
  - a. Full Connection Pastors \$40,000
  - b. Provisional and Associate Members \$36,500
  - c. Local Pastors \$34,000
3. The Floor Schedule for 2011 be:
  - a. Full Connection Pastors \$28,000
  - b. Provisional and Associate Members \$25,600
  - c. Local Pastors \$24,000

The financial results 2009-2011 for the Equitable Compensation Fund are provided below:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
<b>APPORTIONMENT RECEIPTS</b>			
Total Apportionment	1,040,000	1,144,000	500,000
Uncollected Apportionment	132,584	170,966	59,647
<b>Apportionments receipts</b>	<b>907,416</b>	<b>973,034</b>	<b>440,353</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Grants	805,411	797,272	410,572
Administrative	1,168	560	318
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>806,579</b>	<b>797,832</b>	<b>410,890</b>
<b>RECEIPTS OVER(UNDER) EXPENSES</b>	<b>100,837</b>	<b>175,202</b>	<b>29,463</b>

### THE COMMON TABLE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

In his book, *Journey in the Wilderness: New Life for Mainline Churches*, Dr. Gil Rendle notes that identity and purpose are two of the foundational questions facing the Church in a time of adaptive challenge. Across the connection of The United Methodist Church, questions of identity and purpose have been shaping denominational conversations. One outcome of these conversations has been an emphasis on Vital Congregations. Beginning with the summer of 2011, information about Vital Congregations began to be shared across the connection with a mandate for 4-year congregational goals to be set in areas of worship, professions of faith, small group participation, mission giving and mission involvement. In the Virginia Conference, the preparation of these goals has resulted in a question of whether Vital Congregations or “All Things New” will help the Virginia Conference to face the adaptive challenges that are before us.

As the Common Table for Church Vitality seeks to be faithful to its chartered purpose “to coordinate and prioritize the ministries and resources of the Virginia Conference,” it has also considered this question. One outcome of this time of discernment has been a commitment

to continue forward with the goal of changing the culture of the Virginia Conference to fruitfulness and multiplication as extended through the invitations of planting and harvesting in “All Things New.” Common Table’s response to this goal has resulted in an emphasis upon leadership development amid the realities of a reduction of the number of conference program ministry staff, a reduction in the number of conference boards and agencies, a reduction of the number of conference-funded program ministries from 83 in 2008 to 20 in 2012, and a reduction of \$749,411 in conference ministry and mission apportionments in 2012 as compared to 2009. In the midst of this season of pruning, ministries and initiatives to support local congregations have been planted and cultivated to help congregations respond faithfully to the quadrennial goals they establish through Vital Congregations. A second outcome of this discernment process has been the formation of a Common Table Evaluation Task Force that will review the identity and purpose of Common Table in the current reality of the Virginia Conference. This task force will report its results to Common Table for presentation of possible recommendations to the 2013 Annual Conference.

There have been two changes in the Connectional Ministries staff since the last Annual Conference as the Rev. Derrick Parson replaced Angie Williams as director of Ministries with Young People and Cathryn Wooton replaced Debbie Duty as Graphic Designer/Production Coordinator. Angie was in ministry with young people across the Virginia Conference for more than seven years. We express gratitude for Angie’s ministry and influence upon the lives of young people across the conference as she accepted staffing responsibilities for children, youth, young adults and higher education ministries during the staff restructuring of 2009. Debbie was in ministry through the Communications Office for more than 25 years. We express gratitude for Debbie’s ministry and passion for the ministries of small membership congregations in our conference.

The Common Table also expresses appreciation to the faithful ministry of all the Connectional Ministries staff for their tireless work in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

*The Rev. Marc Brown, Chair*

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Approve the following recommendation by the following boards:

- a) By the Board of Discipleship regarding the observance and special offering for Christian Education Sunday;
- b) By the Board of Discipleship regarding the recommendation and endorsement of Gregory B. West as a General Evangelist according to the standards set by the General Board of Discipleship;
- c) By the Board of Global Ministries regarding the continuation of Conference Relationship Agreements;
- d) By the Board of Global Ministries regarding special offerings for Heart Havens, United Methodist Family Services and Virginia United Methodist Homes.
- e) By the Board of Global Ministries regarding Advance Special Offerings.
- f) By the Board of Global Ministries regarding Conference Policies for Virginia Conference United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

### RESOLUTIONS

#### RESOLUTION 1

##### “Challenge for the Africa University Endowment Fund”

*Whereas* approximately 4,000 students have graduated from Africa University in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, since it opened in the spring of 1994. The first graduation included 18 graduates in Agriculture and Natural Resources, and nine students in Theology;

*Whereas* recognizing that by the turn of this century, fully one-fifth of the world’s population will live in Africa, the University believes its purpose is to help African Christians train leaders for their churches and societies;

*Whereas* today Africa University has 1,500 students. These students choose one of six undergraduate or five postgraduate programs. The Management & Administration and

Humanities & Social Sciences programs have the most students. Nearly 100 students are currently enrolled in the Health Sciences area. Africa University has 135 faculty members and, additionally, multiple permanent and visiting lecturers;

*Whereas* students come from 29 countries across the continent of Africa. The official language at Africa University is English, which is also the official language of Zimbabwe. On campus, you find similarities to the American university experience: dormitories, staff housing, a student health center, a student union, dining hall and educational buildings. Prominently placed on campus are the Jokomo/Yamada Library and the Kwang Lim Chapel. You would also find a building where students are enrolled in one of the university's newest programs of study, the Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance program;

*Whereas* because Africa University is a young university, its endowment is limited and needs support for university stability and long term viability;

*Therefore, be it resolved* that the churches of the Virginia Annual Conference be challenged to raise \$1 million over the next three years solely for the support of the Africa University Endowment Fund (World Service Special Gift #03-01-88).

The goal would be for us to give \$1 per member of the conference per year. The Rev. Dr. Stephen Hundley would be appointed by the Annual Conference to lead the effort and no conference funding would be required.

The 2013, 2014 and 2015 Annual Conference sessions will receive a report as to the progress of this challenge.

*Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Hundley*

## RESOLUTION 2

### **“A Call for a Continued Moratorium on Uranium Mining and Milling in Virginia “**

The Holy Bible is clear that we are to be good stewards of creation and not pollute our neighborhoods or the planet, or abuse the poor. [Genesis 2:15, Isaiah 24, Jeremiah 4:2,7, Micah 6:6-8 and Matthew 22:36-40]

Uranium mining and milling in Virginia would threaten the land, water, and health of Virginians for generations to come, especially that of communities near the mine site. The threats from proposals to mine and mill uranium in Virginia were thoroughly debated by the people of our state in the 1970s and 1980s.

In 1981, The Virginia Annual Conference passed a resolution calling on the Virginia General Assembly to impose a statewide moratorium on uranium mining and milling in the Commonwealth. The General Assembly passed legislation mandating a moratorium in 1982.

Now the possibility of uranium mining and milling is being debated anew. We believe that we should pursue other ways of supplying our energy needs.

In 2008, The United Methodist Church's General Conference called for an end to uranium mining and milling in its resolution on “Energy” and recommended that the greatest efforts should be devoted to conservation and renewable energy.

The Virginia Annual Conference in 2008 voted that the major effort in energy policy should be in supporting energy conservation and renewable energy. The average Virginia electricity consumer is currently using nearly 14,500 kW of electricity a year. This is 2,000 kW more than the national average. Greater electricity conservation could reduce the need for more capacity from nuclear and other nonrenewable sources.

The Virginia Conference has installed solar panels on the conference center, and is working with its churches through the “Green Church Initiative” to model energy efficiency and the use of renewable resources. More than 100 Virginia United Methodist congregations now have “green” teams in their churches that are encouraging energy conservation measures.

The 2008 session of the General Assembly defeated a bill which would have allowed the drafting of regulations for uranium mining and milling. Nevertheless, despite this vote, later in 2008 the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission voted funds for a study of the feasibility of uranium mining and milling in Virginia. Governor Gov. Bob McDonnell has directed state officials to conduct a review of uranium mining, but his review committee, while accepting public comments, has declined to hold public meetings. The group will report to the Governor

in late 2012.

Uranium has never been mined in the eastern U.S., and research shows that it has never been safely done anywhere in the world in a humid climate such as ours, with our heavy rains and hurricanes. In addition, many of the more than 4,000 mine sites in the Western United States have been designated Superfund sites by the EPA.

If the moratorium were lifted, it would permit mining of uranium anywhere in Virginia. Uranium-bearing rock stretches from Fairfax County in Northern Virginia to the North Carolina border. In the 1980's, uranium leases were filed on thousands of acres of land in Virginia counties stretching along the Piedmont from Fauquier to Pittsylvania.

The possibility of lifting the ban has prompted water utilities to commission reports on the potential threat to their drinking water. A Virginia Beach study found that even a small breach in mine waste ponds or containers could contaminate its drinking water. Radioactive water from the Coles Hill (Pittsylvania County) site could reach residents of Southside Virginia, Hampton Roads, and North Carolina. A Fairfax County study found that mining in a site in Northern Virginia would pollute the Occoquan River watershed and the Potomac River watershed, making it impossible for the County to provide safe drinking water from existing reservoirs.

Serious uranium mining site problems exist in many parts of the world. Uranium mining and milling sites in Australia, France, Germany, the Czech Republic and many other countries have been linked to damage to human health and the environment. Concern in the Western United States about the link between leukemia and other cancers and uranium mill tailings propelled the passage of legislation requiring the Uranium Mill Tailings Remediation Program (UMTRA). This UMTRA program focused specifically on uranium tailings piles in sites mainly in the central western states. In many places, tailings had been placed in unbounded or poorly bounded piles on level to gently sloping ground. Several piles were within city limits and along or close to riverbanks. Dust dispersion of the tailings, and re-use by the community as construction sand and fill, gave rise to significant health risks.

There is no compelling reason for uranium mining in Virginia ever to begin, much less lead to the kinds of problems found among the thousands of mining sites in the West and around the world. A major interdisciplinary study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has found that there is no shortage of uranium in the U.S., and the U.S. has large stockpiles of enriched uranium, which can be down-blended for uses other than in nuclear weapons.

Even the political leaders of Western states that have long benefited from uranium mining jobs now view most of the jobs created as being those needed to clean up pollution from the mines, and are opposing expansion of mines in the West. U. S. Interior Secretary Salazar has proposed a 20-year moratorium on new mines in watersheds near the Grand Canyon. In the very center of uranium mining in the West, tourism is now worth more than mines. Likewise, tourism and other industries in Virginia could lose more jobs than the mines would provide.

In the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, paragraph 160, I, “The Natural World”, we read: Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect.

*Therefore,*

Let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in our economic, political, social and technological lifestyle to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world, leading to a high quality of life for all of God's creation.

We call upon Gov. McDonnell and the members of the Virginia General Assembly to maintain the moratorium prohibiting any mining or milling of uranium in Virginia, as there is no evidence since 1982 of uranium mining and milling having been done safely in areas as humid as is Virginia. We call for any state government-sponsored decision making meetings devoted to lifting the moratorium to be open hearings that include public citizen testimony.

*Submitted by Virginia Annual Conference Board of Church and Society and Caretakers*



of God's Creation Ministry. Contacts: Jaydee Hanson, Chair, Protecting God's Planet subcommittee of Board of Church and Society, and member, Mount Olivet United Methodist Church in Arlington, (703) 241-8825, or Eloise Folkers Nenon, member, Watson Memorial United Methodist Church, Chatham [Danville], (434) 432-4381

**Footnotes:**

1 Note that this is a revision of the 2011 resolution that was given to the Board of Church and Society for its review when the Annual Conference was unable to complete its votes on all resolutions.

2 See Energy Policy Resolution in the 2008 United Methodist Church, *The Book of Resolutions* available at: <[www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=2954181&ct=4207005&notoc=1](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=2954181&ct=4207005&notoc=1)>.

3 U.S. Per Capita Electricity Use by State In 2010 <[http://energyalmanac.ca.gov/electricity/us\\_per\\_capita\\_electricity-2010.html](http://energyalmanac.ca.gov/electricity/us_per_capita_electricity-2010.html)>

4 Study group will take comments on uranium, but no public hearings, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Mar. 7, 2012 <[www2.timesdispatch.com/news/virginia-politics/2012/mar/07/study-group-will-take-comments-on-uranium-no-publi-ar-1747404/](http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/virginia-politics/2012/mar/07/study-group-will-take-comments-on-uranium-no-publi-ar-1747404/)>.

5 See EPA (2006), Geographic Analysis of the Location of Uranium Mines, available at <[www.epa.gov/radiation/docs/tenorm/402-r-08-005-volii/402-r-08-005-v2-ch2.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/radiation/docs/tenorm/402-r-08-005-volii/402-r-08-005-v2-ch2.pdf)>

6 International Atomic Energy Agency, 2004, Long-term stabilization of uranium mill tailings sites, available at: <[www.epa.gov/radiation/docs/neshaps/subpart-w/historical-rulemakings/iaea-ur-mill-tailings.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/radiation/docs/neshaps/subpart-w/historical-rulemakings/iaea-ur-mill-tailings.pdf)> See page 108 and the next 200 pages for case studies on the problems with uranium mining and mill tailings in Brazil, China, Korea, Russia, Kazakhstan, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Poland, Canada, France and the US.

7 Matthew, M.L., (1985) "The Current Status of the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Actions Project", 7th Symp. on Management of Uranium Mill Tailings, Low-Level Waste and Hazardous Waste, Fort Collins, Colo., February, 1985, Civil Engineering Department, Colorado State University.

8 MIT (2010) *The Future of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle*, available at <<http://web.mit.edu/mitei/docs/spotlights/nuclear-fuel-cycle.pdf>>.

9 See for example Arizona State Rep. Chabin's comments at: <[www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/articles/2011/02/27/20110227chabin-mining-28.html](http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/articles/2011/02/27/20110227chabin-mining-28.html)>.

10 2008 *Book of Discipline*.

### RESOLUTION 3

#### "Eliminate the Death Penalty"

*Whereas*, scripture affirms that all people are created in the image of God (Gen 1.26-28);

*Whereas*, our United Methodist "Social Principles" state that "all human life is sacred and created by God and therefore, we must see all human life as significant and valuable. When governments implement the death penalty (capital punishment), then the life of the convicted person is devalued and all possibility of change in that person's life ends."

*Whereas*, the "Social Principles" further states that "We believe the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore and transform all human beings."

*Whereas* on the only occasion where Jesus was confronted with the issue of the death penalty (the story about the woman alleged to have been caught in adultery, John 8:3-12), he rebuked her accusers, saying "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

*Whereas* the United States is the only western industrial democracy that continues to impose the death penalty;

*Whereas* in 2000 the Virginia Annual Conference adopted a resolution "Calling for A Moratorium on the Death Penalty";

*Whereas* in 2002 the Virginia Annual Conference adopted a resolution "Calling for Moving Forward with Study and Action on the Death Penalty";

*Whereas* the alleged deterrent value of the death penalty is not supported by empirical

evidence;

*Whereas* after working at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections for over 32 years, including serving as Director 2001-2010, during which he observed the execution of 33 persons, now retired Terry Collins recently called for removal of the death penalty which he characterized as "often inefficient," "always time-consuming" and "not a fiscally responsible policy" since it is more expensive than life imprisonment without parole which "offers justice that is swift, certain, effectively severe and perhaps more sensitive to the needs of healing victims' families" who can then achieve closure and no longer be faced with the painful task of attending appeals hearings;

*Whereas* on January 11, 2011, the Illinois Legislature voted to repeal the state's death penalty and apply remaining funds in the Capital Litigation Trust Fund toward murder victims' services and law enforcement; the *Chicago Tribune* on March 2, 2011 reversed years of editorial support for capital punishment and called for abolishing the death penalty in Illinois, and on March 9, 2011, Gov. Pat Quinn signed legislation repealing the death penalty in Illinois, stating that after talking with people on both sides of the issues – prosecutors, judges, elected officials, religious leaders, families of murder victims, people on death row who were exonerated and ordinary citizens – "I have concluded that our system of imposing the death penalty is inherently flawed. The evidence presented to me by former prosecutors and justices with decades of experience in the criminal justice system has convinced me that it is impossible to devise a system that is consistent, that is free of discrimination on the basis of race, geography or economic circumstances, that always gets it right."

*Whereas* since 1973 a total of 140 persons have been released from death row on evidence of their innocence, including one in Virginia, strongly reminding us of the danger of committing the irreversible wrong of killing an innocent person;

*Whereas* a 2010 poll clearly found that a majority of 61 percent "would choose a punishment other than the death penalty for murder, including life with no possibility of parole and restitution to the victim's family (39 percent), life with no possibility of parole (13 percent), or life with the possibility of parole (9 percent)."

*Whereas* police chiefs have ranked the death penalty last when presented with a list of ways to reduce violent crime and considered the death penalty to be the least efficient use of taxpayers' money, and

*Whereas* life without parole provides the safety and security society seeks in capital cases,

*Be it hereby resolved* that the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church:

1. Affirms the historic position of The United Methodist Church which states that "we oppose capital punishment and urge its elimination from all criminal codes."
2. Calls for elimination of the death penalty in Virginia.
3. Requests the Governor and members of the General Assembly to prepare and enact legislation that will eliminate the death penalty in the Commonwealth.
4. Requests Bishop Kammerer or her successor to invite other religious bodies and non-government organizations to join us in actively seeking the elimination of the death penalty in Virginia.

*Submitted by The Rev. Dr. John Copenhaver on behalf of the Virginia Chapter of the United Methodist Federation for Social Action*

**Footnotes:**

1. ¶ 164.V.G, "Social Principles," 2008 *Book of Discipline*.

2. ¶ 164.V.G, "Social Principles," 2008 *Book of Discipline*.

3. Although the South accounted for 80 percent of all executions in the U.S. in 2010, it nevertheless had the highest murder rate of 5.6 per 100,000; conversely, the Northeast, with less than 1 percent of all executions, tied with the West for the lowest murder rate of 4.2 per 100,000. Death Penalty Information Center "Fact Sheet" (Oct. 4, 2011).

4. Terry Collins, "Justice system can be improved by removing ultimate penalty," Columbus Dispatch, Jan. 25, 2011.

5. Death Penalty Information Center, "Press Release" (Feb. 6, 2011).

6. Editorial, *Chicago Tribune*, (Feb. 3, 2011). <www.chicagotribune.com> (Feb. 14, 2011).
7. "Statement from Gov. Pat Quinn on Senate Bill 3539" <www.deathpenaltyinfor.org/documents/ILGovernorStatement.pdf> (Oct. 4, 2011).
8. Death Penalty Information Center "Fact Sheet" (Feb. 6, 2012)
9. Death Penalty Information Center "Fact Sheet" (Feb. 6, 2012)
10. Death Penalty Information Center "Fact Sheet" (Feb. 6, 2012).
11. ¶ 164.V.G, "Social Principles," 2008 *Book of Discipline*.

#### RESOLUTION 4

##### End Life-Long Stigmatization

The gospel calls us to be healers, reconcilers and peacemakers amid the brokenness, violence and vengeance of our world. We are empowered to do this by God's grace operating in us – grace which we come to understand through personal experience and parables such as the one about the unmerciful servant where Jesus taught that we are to forgive those who sin against us not just seven times but seventy times seven (Matthew 18:22) – and allow God's unlimited grace to become continually manifest in and through us.

Our volunteers seeking to help persons wanting to obtain restoration of their voting rights have found that among those most in need of this healing grace in our time are ex-offenders who, even after satisfactorily completing all court-imposed punishment for a felony conviction and who have gainful employment as their top priority, are stigmatized for life as 'felons', find it almost impossible to obtain gainful employment, support their families and become productive members of society. As a result, such persons often become repeat offenders.

In 2010, Gov. Bob McDonnell established a Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative which was designed to increase community safety, reduce recidivism, and improve integration and outcome for ex-offenders returning to their communities by encouraging collaborative strategies among state, local and non-profit agencies with regard to housing, treatment, education and job-training.

This has been a welcome initiative in response to a long-standing need. Now in its early stages, this program is currently concentrated on a few selected regions, with resources focused on ex-offenders viewed at "high risk for victimizing again." As such, it currently addresses the needs of only a limited number of the approximately 13,000 ex-offenders released by the state each year but holds much promise for helping to produce better outcomes for ex-offenders re-entering society.

However, it needs to also be noted that this Initiative does not attempt to address the needs of the approximately 300,000 other Virginia ex-offenders who have completed all court-imposed punishment and already live in our communities but nevertheless suffer life-long stigmatization as 'felons' – the majority of whom committed only non-violent crimes many years ago due to a mistake in their youthful judgments and a criminal justice system that disproportionately impacts minorities and the poor.

This life-long stigmatization of ex-offenders has been exacerbated over recent decades by enactment of harsh sentencing laws, including mandatory minimum sentences that bar judges from considering individual circumstances, criminalize non-violent behavior that does no harm to others, such as simple drug possession, and increase the tax burden on Virginia taxpayers. The Department of Corrections reports that in 2010 there were approximately 1890 persons in Virginia's prisons for drug possession. At an annual cost of approximately \$25,000 each, this means that Virginia has been spending over \$47 million annually to lock up nonviolent low-level offenders who had caused no harm to others when public safety may have been equally served by less costly alternatives, such as misdemeanor charges and drug treatment courts, that would not have stigmatized these persons for life as 'felons.'

While Virginia currently has a process by which the governor can restore voting rights and certain other rights to eligible ex-offenders, this process benefits only 3,000-4,000 persons annually and does not address the problem of life-long stigmatization of ex-offenders. However, it can be reasonably argued that persons deemed satisfactorily rehabilitated to have their rights restored (based on having 'paid their dues to society' by satisfactory completion

of all court-imposed punishment, including prison time, parole, probation, payment of court fees and restitution, plus good behavior over a waiting period of two to five years) ought to no longer bear the burden of life-long stigmatization as ex-offenders.

We and other Virginians have for too long acquiesced to this practice of continued punishment of former offenders through life-long stigmatization – which effectively bars most of them from gainful employment and makes it impossible for them to support their families and become integrated as productive members of society. By such neglect we become participants in perpetuating a cycle of recidivism and repeated incarceration involving more victims, more human suffering and higher costs to taxpayers.

In view of the above, *it is hereby resolved* that the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church:

1. Commends Gov. McDonnell for establishing the Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative and urge its expansion to serve all regions of Virginia.

2. Requests that the governor, as the only person currently authorized to restore voting rights to ex-offenders, when restoring rights to nonviolent ex-offenders also issue a certificate of rehabilitation (or an equivalent certification) on the rationale that an ex-offender considered sufficiently rehabilitated to have his or her rights restored should also be considered sufficiently rehabilitated to be eligible for gainful employment when he or she has the relevant skills or willingness to learn such skills in on the job training available to other applicants.

3. Urges our members of the U.S. Congress and the Virginia General Assembly to help curtail life-long stigmatization of ex-offenders by (a) moving nonviolent, low level offenses that do no harm to others, such as simple drug possession, from the list of offenses classified as felonies to misdemeanors (which are punishable by fine and up to a year in jail but no imprisonment), and (b) raising the threshold for felony conviction in Virginia to a significantly higher value than the current \$200 which has remained unchanged since set in 1980.

4. While the above actions would benefit a limited number of ex-offenders and reduce future felonization, these actions alone would do little to address the problem of life-long stigmatization suffered by the approximately 300,000 ex-offenders who have 'paid their dues to society' and now live in our communities. We therefore request our bishop to contact other faith leaders in Virginia with the objective of establishing a commission to find ways to help overcome the practice of life-long stigmatization of ex-offenders and thereby help to transform our culture toward one where ex-offenders are extended grace, re-claimed and helped to become productive members of society. This commission should (a) include leaders from different faith traditions, ex-offenders, persons with experience in government, and representatives from non-profit organizations, and (b) establish a plan of work, seek funding from its member bodies and other sources as may be deemed appropriate, and issue progress reports at least annually to organizations and agencies represented by its members.

5. We call upon Virginia United Methodists to pray and become more informed about the problem of life-long stigmatization faced by persons convicted for a felony, find ways to support families of those in prison and their victims, be willing to serve as mentors to those returning to society, support programs that will help them become productive citizens, and invite them to our churches. Additionally, to help monitor progress in addressing this concern, we direct the Common Table to arrange for the appropriate conference body to formulate a question to be asked at each annual Charge Conference along the following lines: What is this congregation doing to reach out to persons in prison, their families and their victims, and to end life-long stigmatization of persons who have satisfactorily completed all court imposed punishment for the offense for which they were convicted?

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Hunter Mabry on behalf of the Virginia Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action*

#### RESOLUTION 5

##### "On Being Our Brother's Keeper"

When a lawyer sought to interrogate Jesus about what he must do to inherit eternal life, Jesus confirmed that loving one's "neighbor as yourself" is part of the greatest commandment,

second only to loving God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind (Lk10:25-28).

Upon being filled with the Holy Spirit, the early disciples carried this teaching to its logical end, holding all things in common, selling their possessions and distributing the proceeds to all, “as any had need” (Acts 2:45).

In his counsel to “gain all you can, save all you can, and give all you can,” John Wesley endorsed the enterprising spirit but tempered it with the obligation to “Render unto God – not a tenth, not a third, not half, but all that is God’s,” to use all we have as God directs. Wesley exemplified this in his own life, living simply, giving away his surplus money to charity to meet the needs of others, never having more than 100 pounds at any time, and preaching that Christians should consider themselves members of the poor. When he died in 1791 he left behind only a few miscellaneous coins and two silver spoons.

He practiced being his “brother’s keeper.” While that included acts of charity, it also included much more: he supported loan funds to help people escape debt, buy tools and start employment producing enterprises; he criticized the government for not collecting taxes due from the wealthy and tax evaders, and on many occasions he called for social reform.

Yet, in today’s world, many protest. Like Cain, when asked by God where his brother Abel was, many today also protest, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” (Gen 4:9). The ultra-rich grow richer while the middle class falls further behind and a record number live in poverty. Many seem to disregard, reject or minimize the idea that we are our “brother’s keeper.”

This reality is reflected in the growing inequality in our society. A 2011 study by the Economic Policy Institute found that the share of wealth held by the richest 20 percent of American households has increased to 87.2 percent, while the share held by the remaining 80 percent has decreased to 12.8 percent of all wealth. The richest 1 percent of all U.S. households, with 35.6 percent of all wealth, had a net worth 225 greater than the median household net worth – the highest on record – while the share of households having zero or negative net worth had increased to approximately one out of four households; among black households the median net worth had fallen to \$2,200, the lowest ever recorded, while the median net worth among white households was \$97,900. Approximately 80 percent of all stock was owned by the top 10 percent of all U.S. households, while over half of all households owned no stocks at all – either directly or indirectly through mutual or retirement funds.

A major factor contributing to this skepticism about being our “brother’s keeper,” and to the extreme economic inequality that weakens our society, are public policies that favor the wealthy. A major example is the tax rate on investment income (on capital gains and dividends) which is capped at 15 percent, and which is exempt from payroll taxes paid on earned income to support Social Security and Medicare. As a result, “anyone making more than \$34,500 a year in wages and salaries is taxed at a higher rate than a billionaire is taxed on untold millions in capital gains.” Most capital gains go to those who are already wealthy: approximately 50 percent of all capital gains go to the top one-tenth of one percent; 75 percent go to the top one percent. In 2008, the 400 richest taxpayers received 60 percent of their income from capital gains and only 8 percent from salaries and wages.

It has been estimated that if the ultra-rich paid taxes on their investment income at the same rate that most Americans pay on their earned income (from salaries and wages), this would provide an additional \$50 billion in public revenue annually. But with their huge investment income taxes capped at 15 percent and exempt from payroll taxes, the ultra-rich get richer while the middle class and the poor fall further behind and pay a disproportionate share of the total tax revenue needed to collectively be our “brother’s keeper,” by providing federal, state and local public services such as police and fire protection, schools, libraries, highways and other transportation systems, and other infrastructure needed for a sound economy and flourishing democracy.

Such tax policies are unfair and incompatible with the basic biblical and Wesleyan principle that we are all called to be our “brother’s keeper.” Everyone has the responsibility of contributing their fair share toward the common good and collectively being our “brother’s

keeper.”

In view of such concerns, the initial draft of this resolution called for tax reform that would “apply the same tax rate on investment income as on ordinary income from wages and salaries on which most citizens depend.” When that draft was circulated in the spirit of “holy conferencing” to clergy and laity for comments and suggestions, very diverse comments were received – from enthusiastic endorsement to strong opposition. Between these two extremes, others raised thoughtful and serious concerns – such as: What would be the impact on the ‘falling behind’ middle class that depends on investment income for retirement? Are we competent to address tax policy? Would this issue cause divisions in our churches which consist of persons of different political persuasions? What is the proper role of the church, government and individual Christians when dealing with such issues? Certainly these are relevant questions for which answers are needed to help us act responsibly.

Therefore, in view of the above, the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church hereby:

1. Reaffirms our own commitment to the biblical and Wesleyan principle that we are called to be our brother’s keeper, our sister’s keeper, keeper of all of God’s children.
2. Requests the Board of Church and Society to identify, or develop, and make available to our churches, study materials that will help our members to examine (1) the relationship between Christian faith and economic life; (2) the role of the church, government and individual Christians in dealing with economic issues, and (3) the implications of these for the church’s witness to being our brother’s keeper, our sister’s keeper, keeper of all of God’s children.
3. Encourages our congregations, and groups within our congregations such as church school classes, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women and United Methodist Youth, to engage in serious study and prayerful discernment about the relationship between a deep personal Christian faith, the need for greater economic justice in society, and the formation of responsible public policy.

*Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Hunter Mabry*

#### *Footnotes:*

1. John Wesley, “The Use of Money” (Sermon 50). <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umhistory/wesley/sermons/50/>
  2. Ronald H. Stone, *John Wesley’s Life and Ethics* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001), 169, 200, 226.
  3. “The State of Working America’s Wealth, 2011”, Economic Policy Institute Briefing Paper 292. [www.epi.org](http://www.epi.org) (28Feb2012).
  4. Steven Mufson and Jia Lynn Yang, *ACapital gains tax rates benefiting wealthy feed growing gap between rich and poor*, @ Washington Post, (11Sept2011) [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) (12Dec2011).
- Citizens for Tax Justice. [www.ctj.org](http://www.ctj.org) (31Jan2012).

### **THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The presence of the Historical Society fulfills the Disciplinary mandate that each annual conference have a commission on archives and history. Virginia United Methodists benefit from the society’s oversight of the conference archives, under the stewardship of archivist Stephanie Davis, and from the opportunity to subscribe to *Heritage*, the Society’s historical journal, edited by L. Boyd Lucas.

Society programming also seeks to function as a resource, including a fall trip to the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation sites and a forthcoming October presentation on Francis Asbury, whose career links him to the Edward Dromgoole house, one of the Old Brunswick preservation commitments. Two centuries after Asbury’s ministry we continue to take inspiration from persons sent to the Old Dominion by John Wesley to establish new faith communities.

The following lay and clergy representative have been endorsed by the Virginia Conference

Historical Society and are presented to the Annual Conference for election as trustees for 2012-13: Clergy: Roger C. Balcom, Paul Allen Beighley III, Brenda J. Biler, Steve Bradley, Michael Browder, Carlton D. Casey, Robert T. Casey, Bishop H. Hasbrouck Hughes Jr., James M. John, John T. Martin Jr., Reginald H. Potts III, Henry Riley, Karen Sandoval, Lee B. Sheaffer, Cheryl Simmons, Carl O. Stewart, Elizabeth W. Taylor, Kenneth S. Waclo, Roy P. White, Raymond F. Wrenn, Elizabeth A. S. Wright, Gary A. Ziegler.

Lay: Beatrice Bennett, Marcella Bullock, Neill Caldwell, T. Harold Crowder Jr., Thelma Crowder, Jesse H. Fanshaw III, Queen Green, Deedie Kagey, June Landrum, L. Boyd Lucas, Stephen Mansfield, Harold "Rockie" McKee, Catherine D. Morgan, Brenda NeSmith, William Olson, Laurie Preston, Patti B. Russell, Leona Salter, Ann P. Shappell, Darrell F. Shepherd, Frank Vetting, James Wall, Charles Williams.

The Historical Society has created three foundations which provide preservation and interpretation of sites and structures significant for Virginia and American United Methodism. The foundations and the scope of their efforts are explained as follows:

*Dr. Stephen Mansfield, President*

#### **The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation**

Since last year, much has been accomplished by the Board of the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation in the effort to preserve three major properties, while communicating the importance of holding on to the fragile remnants of a rich history for future generations to enjoy.

The first property is the Ebenezer Academy, quite possibly the first Methodist school in America, established by Bishop Francis Asbury and local leaders near today's small town of Warfield. Access to the site has been accomplished by means of a new right of way and an improved road made possible by the Buck Johnson Memorial Fund. The foundation and an impressive obelisk or "ebenezer" are all that remain of the original school. Plans are underway to provide informational signs at the site, telling the history and importance of this first effort to provide education for frontier people.

Another significant project of the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation is the preservation and possible restoration of the Rev. Edward Dromgoole home near the village of Valentines. A recent report to the board following a visit to the 15-acre site by Dr. Camille Wells, a professor in the History Department at the College of William & Mary, specializing in colonial and archeological history, reinforced the opinion that the house is a rare treasure of late 18th c. architecture, remarkably large, extremely well built and fairly well preserved considering the neglect it has suffered over the past few decades. It is the only authentic Methodist circuit rider home within the bounds of the Virginia Conference and has a rich history, in part because Bishop Asbury spent significant time there, and also because of the gifted family of Dromgooles who lived there.

During the past year dense growth around the house was cleared and a French drain installed to draw water away from the foundation of the house. This effort succeeded not only in helping to dry the ground, but in making it easier to see several outbuildings and other foundation structures more clearly. It is hoped that serious archeological work can be done alongside important structural enhancements intended to conserve and preserve both land and dwelling.

The third project is the 12.25-acre Old Randolph-Macon College site in Boydton, containing the original main building and the Helensha/Hatch Cottage, dating from 1831-32. Founded in 1830, Randolph-Macon is America's oldest continuously operating Methodist College. When the college was moved to Ashland in 1868, the facility became the home of The Boydton Institute, a normal school for former slaves that produced many important leaders over a fifty-year period.

Recent actions of the Board during the past year included writing and adopting new Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and the submitting an application to the Internal Revenue Service to become designated as a 501c3 organization to enable the solicitation of donations for preservation and restoration. White papers prepared for each of the three projects, stating

purpose and long-term goals, were approved by Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation directors at their Feb. 25, meeting to guide future efforts of the organization.

The foundation is grateful for the interest and support of the Virginia Conference in its effort to preserve the rich heritage that exists within the bounds of the original Brunswick Circuit, the longest continuing circuit in American Methodism.

*The Rev. John T. Martin Jr., President*

#### **The Old Stone Church Foundation**

The Old Stone Church Foundation was incorporated in 1974. The foundation's purpose is dedicated to preserving, restoring, maintaining, promoting and interpreting the site of the Old Stone Church and cemetery at the corner of Cornwall and Liberty Streets in Leesburg.

The annual membership meeting of the foundation was held Sept. 10, 2011 on the Old Stone Church/ Cemetery site. A beautiful dedication ceremony for the recently installed prayer/memorial garden followed the annual meeting. The guest speaker was Dr. Steve Mansfield, president of the Virginia Historical Society, parent organization for the foundation. A reception and fellowship followed the dedication ceremony.

The prayer/memorial garden is positioned at the western portion of the cemetery and is constructed with beautiful bricks that were purchased by members and others in memory/honor. We continue to be grateful for the support of those who maintain their membership in the Old Stone Church Foundation and for the solid support of the prayer/memorial garden project.

Membership is open to all who share its purposes and there is still space and opportunity to purchase a brick for the garden. Write to P.O. Box 426, Leesburg, VA 20178-0426.

*Charles E. Williams, President*

#### **The William Watters Foundation**

The William Watters Foundation was established by the Virginia Conference Historical Society in 1996 to protect and preserve the small Adams-Wren-Watters Cemetery where William Watters, the first American-born itinerant Methodist minister, and his wife are buried.

The cemetery, a circular plot 90 feet in diameter and one-quarter acre in area, with access to Linway Terrace [off Old Dominion Drive] in McLean, has been registered as the United Methodist Historical site # 7 since 1970. Three bronze plaques were dedicated on May 24, 2011. One plaque is a duplicate of the fading inscriptions on the monument, the second supplies brief information on his work and the third lists the names of known persons buried in the cemetery.

For additional information, write The William Watters Foundation, PO Box 6144, McLean, VA 22106-6144.

*E. Jean Balcom, President*

#### **VIRGINIA CONFERENCE WELLNESS MINISTRIES**

In response to information provided in the 2009 Health Survey, and gleaned through more than three years of extensive research and personal interaction with clergy and spouses, Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries (VCWM) is proud to announce its recommendation that Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., (VUMPI) establish a new wellness partnership with Health Advocate, Inc. <[www.healthadvocate.com](http://www.healthadvocate.com)>. A copy of VCWM's Recommended Course of Action is provided as an attachment to this report.

If adopted, not later than Jan. 1, 2013, all active clergy and active lay employees enrolled in one of the health plans sponsored by the Virginia Conference will be eligible to utilize the range of services provided by Health Advocate. The member's spouse, children, parents and in-laws will be eligible as well, at no additional cost. Future plans are to make the program available to retired clergy/retired lay employees – possibly as early as 2014.

Health Advocate's services are divided into three major categories:

Core Health Advocacy: help with complex conditions, finding the right doctors/specialists, addressing eldercare issues, clarifying insurance coverage, helping to resolve claims issues,

helping to negotiate medical bills and locating the right services at the right time.

Wellness Solution: unlimited personal wellness coaching by phone or e-mail; also, an online Health Risk Assessment (HRA), wellness workshops, health trackers, and MedChoice Support – assistance in making informed decisions about tests, treatments, procedures and medications.

Personalized Communications: personalized reminders about diagnostic and preventive care and procedures, as well as assistance with managing chronic conditions; copies of all communications are provided automatically to the member's personal physician.

Additional information on Health Advocate, and its place in VUMPI's health plans, is available through the VCWM website, <www.vcwministries.org>, or contact us at <VCWM@vcwministries.org>.

VCWM partnered with Johns Hopkins University and Anthem on a free pilot program called *Healthy Monday*; more than 200 active and retired clergy and spouses enrolled in the conference's health plans chose to participate. *Healthy Monday*, which began in October, is scheduled to conclude during October 2012.

In collaboration with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits' Center for Health, Duke University's Clergy Health Initiative and Duke's Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health, VCWM partnered in the creation and funding of a three-year Longitudinal Research Survey to be administered annually to 5,000 United Methodist clergy across the United States from 2012-2014. The results of this survey will help guide denominational, jurisdictional and conference-level programming, and facilitate efforts to improve the health and wellness of clergy and their families. The first-year response rate was an excellent 37 percent.

VCWM continues to dialogue with Dr. Jeffrey Brantley, M.D., director of the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) Program at Duke's Center for Integrative Medicine. Dr. Brantley, an acknowledged expert in the field, is investigating ways to provide MBSR training via phone. VCWM is interested in making such a pilot program available to our Virginia Conference clergy as a tool for coping with the unique stresses associated with the pastoral vocation and ministerial lifestyle.

Our executive director, The Rev. Charles Reynolds, concluded his service as a member of the denomination's quadrennial Church Systems Task Force (CSTF), which performed a detailed evaluation of four areas of connective life: the itinerancy, supervisory systems, processes for entering/exiting ministry, and work-life balance. Additionally, he helped draft the Voluntary Transition Program (VTP), a plan to assist clergy transitioning out of ministry. The task force's recommendations were presented to General Conference 2012.

Ecumenically, VCWM is cooperating with Bishop James Mauney and the staff of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to share programs and learning opportunities, with the goal of improving the health and wellness of clergy and their families across denominational lines.

Finally, VCWM is in the initial stages of conversation with the leadership of the member judicatories of the Virginia Council of Churches (VCC), exploring possibilities for collaboration in the areas of health and wellness. VCWM is optimistic that these conversations may result in the future sharing of knowledge, ideas and assets in a communal effort to facilitate holistic wellness.

VCWM is dedicated to assisting our Virginia Conference clergy, lay employees, and their families to "have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10b). We request your prayers and welcome your feedback.

*Donald Yesukaitis, President*

## RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION

Submitted to the VUMPI Supplemental Benefits Committee on Feb. 23, 2012:

*Whereas*, the cost of providing coverage to participants enrolled in health care plans sponsored by the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church continues to increase annually at a pace which threatens the future viability of such plans, and

*Whereas*, Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries, Ltd. (VCWM) was established to

conduct necessary due diligence, on behalf of Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI), to identify opportunities to enhance the overall health and wellness of VUMPI's health plan participants, and

*Whereas*, VCWM is under contract with VUMPI to study health and wellness issues among its client population, to recommend ways to improve same, and to oversee and/or aid in implementing various wellness-related programs and services provided by VUMPI to its client population, and

*Whereas*, VUMPI tasked VCWM to develop an overall strategy to mitigate the increasing trend in health plan costs ("Bend the Trend") by using VUMPI's 2009 Wellness Survey, and the 2010 Health and Wellness Assessment as a guide, and

*Whereas*, VUMPI defined the scope of work to include a four-phase initiative:

1. Data collection and analysis:
  - a. Conference Leadership questionnaire
  - b. Interviews of conference leadership
  - c. Survey of all clergy, lay employees and spouses
  - d. Analyze survey results
  - e. Compile and report survey results
  - f. Create executive summary of findings
2. Strategic and tactical planning:
  - a. Interpret and develop leadership's vision
  - b. Determine if present state is acceptable
  - c. Inventory existing change agents, conference resources
  - d. Establish a road map to get to better place
  - e. Develop measurements and standards
  - f. Build conference-wide consensus; "sell it"
3. Rollout and implementation:
  - a. "Press the flesh" - Cabinet and district meetings, conference boards and agencies, lay leadership
  - b. Intense travel throughout conference
4. Ongoing maintenance and refinement:
  - a. Provide systematic reporting to leadership and constituents
  - b. Identify areas for systemic improvements
  - c. Refine health and wellness initiative processes
  - d. Collect and analyze feedback
  - e. Make recommendations to leadership
  - f. Integrate processes into existing systems, and

*Whereas*, costs related to the provision of health care services continue to escalate at a rapidly increasing pace, and current clinical and social research indicates that clergy and the families of clergy constitute a demographic stratum of American society with poor physical and emotional health, and

*Whereas*, current data provided by Anthem/Blue Cross Blue Shield continues to indicate low utilization rates among the VUMPI client population for diagnostic and preventive medical and wellness related services, and

*Whereas*, the 2009 Wellness Survey, the 2010 Health and Wellness Assessment, and significant ongoing interaction with the same population between 2007-2011 has resulted in the identification of specific health and wellness related services desired by clergy and their spouses, and

*Whereas*, VCWM has been successful in raising clergy/spouse awareness of health issues and wellness related practices, and believes the target population is now prepared to move forward with the completion of Phase 2 of the wellness initiative and partner with a commercial vendor, and

*Whereas*, VCWM has recently completed an eight-month process of researching, vetting, comparing and interviewing six wellness vendors from across the United States, and

*Whereas*, the vendors investigated by VCWM represent a variety of approaches, utilize a

variety of techniques to facilitate and/or enhance wellness among client populations, and deal with client populations demographically similar to the VUMPI client population, and

Whereas, the VCWM Board of Directors has concluded its research by arriving at an unanimous choice of vendor,

Therefore be it resolved, that the Board of Directors of Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries, Ltd. recommends to VUMPI's Supplemental Benefits Committee the selection of Health Advocate, Inc. as the commercial vendor to provide contracted health and wellness services to VUMPI's client population, beginning not later than Jan. 1, 2013, and that:

1. The Supplemental Benefits Committee endorse and recommend Health Advocate, Inc. <www.healthadvocate.com> to the VUMPI Board of Directors for the stated contractual purposes, and

2. Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries, Ltd. will continue its work with VUMPI by serving as Wellness Initiative Coordinator and liaison with Health Advocate, Inc., to formulate, oversee and administer health and wellness services provided by Health Advocate, Inc. to the VUMPI client population, and

3. The Supplemental Benefits Committee implement a multi-tiered personal contribution schedule to financially incentivize health plan participants to engage in desired wellness tasks within a given year.

## VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST PENSIONS, INC.

### SECTION I: REPORTS

#### REPORT 1: ROLE AND 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 the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB), 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 the GBOPHB.

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

VUMPI, in conjunction with the GBOPHB, 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

Health  
Prescription  
Dental  
Supplemental Life  
Voluntary Life  
Long-Term Care  
Medical Spending Account  
Daycare Spending Account

#### GBPHB Plans

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

#### REPORT 2: PENSION PLAN COSTS

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 Dec. 31, 1981.

B. Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) for service and benefits accrued on and/or after January 1, 1982 through Dec. 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 Jan. 1, 2007.

The GBOPHB refers to plans A-C above as "defined benefit" 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, the GBOPHB, has the responsibility to manage the funds in a manner sufficient to pay the monthly defined benefit.

Simultaneous to the GBOPHB calculating each participant's defined benefit, it calculates each annual conference's cost to provide these defined benefits. The GBOPHB bills each annual conference the amount due. Each annual conference, or in our case, VUMPI, then in-turn bills and apportions our local churches for the cost of these plans.

The GBOPHB calculated the DEFINED BENEFIT pension costs as follows:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Pre-82	\$1,901,992	\$1,387,695
MPP	0	0
CRSP-DB	5,755,023	5,924,719
Total DEFINED BENEFIT Pension Cost	\$7,657,015	\$7,312,414

In addition to these "defined benefit" plans, annual conferences provide their clergy pension benefits from the CRSP-DC, a "defined contribution" 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. Hence, the term "defined contribution." VUMPI bills local churches for the required amount of pension contribution, then in-turn, makes monthly contributions into the clergy CRSP-DC accounts equal to 3% of salary and housing.

The GBOPHB calculated the DEFINED CONTRIBUTION pension cost as follows:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
CRSP-DC	\$1,624,258	\$1,563,864
Total DEFINED CONTRIBUTION Pension Cost	\$ 1,624,258	\$1,563,864

#### REPORT 3: HEALTH AND WELLNESS INITIATIVE

In 2007, VUMPI began a process to re-examine how it could positively influence the factors affecting the health and wellness of our clergy health plan participants, and their families.

The Health and Wellness Assessment, which canvassed more than 1,100 clergy and spouses, is complete. Findings have been distributed to the Bishop, the Virginia Conference Extended Cabinet, Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries, LTD., and the Board of Ordained Ministry.

As intended, the Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries, LTD., is now leading a collaborative effort among Virginia Conference boards, agencies and leadership to identify and implement initiatives that will increase the overall health and wellness of our clergy and their families.

VUMPI will implement a multi-tiered Personal Contribution schedule to financially incentivize health plan participants to engage in desired wellness tasks. Health Advocate, Inc., a vendor retained by VUMPI, will – in coordination with VUMPI and VCWM – implement a comprehensive wellness initiative; identify desired wellness tasks; engage Virginia Conference clergy, lay employees and their spouses to accomplish the desired wellness tasks; measure participation and benefit utilization, and determine the effect on health plan claims; and work with VUMPI and VCWM to determine VUMPI's Return on Investment (ROI).

If you are not yet aware of the work underway at the Virginia Conference Wellness

Ministries, Ltd., VUMPI strongly encourages you to review the results of the Virginia Conference Health and Wellness Assessment at <www.vaumc.org/wellnessministries>, and/or contact Virginia Conference Wellness Ministries at <www.vcwministries.org>.

#### REPORT 4: MEDICARE PART D SUBSIDY

In 2011, VUMPI received its government subsidy for continuing to offer prescription drug coverage as part of our Retiree Health Plan (RHP). The subsidy totaled \$960,372. This payment was based upon our 2010 and 2011 prescription utilization. This subsidy will always be based upon our previous year's prescription drug utilization. VUMPI anticipated this subsidy and incorporated it into our two-year medical trend factors to reduce the Church Apportionments and Personal Contribution rates for the 2013 RHP. This will continue to be our annual practice as long as the subsidy is made available to us.

#### REPORT 5: CONSUMER-DRIVEN HEALTH PLANS

On Jan. 1, 2007, VUMPI rolled out a new health plan option for our active clergy. This plan, referred to as the Clergy Managed Care Plan (CMCP), is commonly referred to as a Consumer-Driven Health Plan. Specifically, it is a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA). The CMCP was offered in addition to existing plans, therefore, it did not replace the Participating Provider Organization (PPO) or Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plans.

The plan continues to operate as expected and has played a valuable role in fulfilling its original purpose – to educate our clergy participants and their dependents on the cost of health care – and with this information, encourage them to assist VUMPI in a collective attempt to “Bend the Trend” in our overall health care costs. However, VUMPI postponed plans to convert this plan to a qualified Health Savings Account (HSA) until further details emerge about the national health care insurance.

## SECTION II: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE APPROVAL

### RECOMMENDATION 1: 2013 HEALTH PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

From time to time, our health plans may be required to comply with changes in state law as mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia and all other states that have jurisdiction over our plans. It is our policy to review these changes in a timely manner, typically between sessions of the annual conference, and include changes that expand coverage as long as it can be done so without material increase in health care cost paid by our annual conference.

Virginia Conference clergy members will earn a year of service towards his/her Total VAUMC Years of Service as indicated in the Retiree Health Plan Vesting and Contribution Schedule found in RECOMMENDATION 3: PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTION RECOMMENDATIONS as long as they meet the Virginia Annual Conference's Retiree Health Plan eligibility.

ALL ELIGIBLE CLERGY MUST BE ENROLLED IN THE CONFERENCE HEALTH PLAN UNLESS PROOF OF OTHER COVERAGE IS SUBMITTED TO VUMPI.

IF YOU DO NOT ENROLL DURING THE OPEN ENROLLMENT, YOUR FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT ELECTION WILL BE ZERO (\$0.00) FOR 2013 PER LAW AND YOU WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY ENROLLED AS A SINGLE EMPLOYEE, SUBJECT TO THE SINGLE PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION RATES IN A “DEFAULT PLAN”.

THE “DEFAULT PLAN” IS THE \$750/\$2,000 PPO PLAN WITHOUT DENTAL COVERAGE.

YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTRONIC OPEN ENROLLMENT IN THE FALL OF 2012. DETAILS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH NORMAL ANNUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT MEANS.

For 2013, VUMPI recommends the Virginia Annual Conference adopt the following changes to its plans:

#### Retiree Health Plan (RHP):

Under Age 65

No Changes in 2013 benefits under the Retiree Health Plan (RHP).

Over Age 65

No changes in 2013 benefits under the Retiree Health Plan (RHP). Participants must file for, and enroll in Medicare Part A & B in order to receive health benefits under the Conference Retiree Health Plan.

#### Conference Health Plan (CHP):

Actives:

No Changes in 2013 benefits under the Conference Health Plan's (CHP) \$750 PPO or Clergy Managed Care Plan (CMCP). The HMO Plan will be replaced with Anthem's Standard Point of Service (POS) Plan.

#### Incapacitated with approved CPP benefits:

Under Age 65

No Changes in 2013 benefits under the \$500 Deductible PPO Plan. Participants who are eligible for Medicare Part A & B must file for, and enroll in Medicare Part A & B as soon as they are eligible in order to receive health benefits under the Conference Health Plans.

Over Age 65

No Changes in 2013 benefits under the \$500 Deductible PPO Plan. Participants must file for, and enroll in Medicare Part A & B in order to receive health benefits under the Conference Health Plans.

#### Widowed Spouses of Active Clergy:

Under Age 65

No Changes in 2013 benefits under the \$500 Deductible PPO Plan.

Over Age 65

Widowed Spouses of Active Clergy Over Age 65 receive their coverage under the Retiree Health Plan. Participants must file for, and enroll in Medicare Part A & B in order to receive health benefits under the Conference Health Plans.

## RECOMMENDATION 2: 2013 PENSION AND HEALTH PLAN APPORTIONMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

### Total Apportionment Summary

VUMPI recommends the total pension and health apportionment of \$16,101,745 for 2013, comprised of the following components: Pre-1982 Pension \$1,387,695; Conference Health Plan (CHP) – \$8,445,917; Retiree Health Plan (RHP) – \$5,651,788; Incapacitated and Widowed Spouses of Active Pastors – \$616,345.

[Note: VUMPI will continue to bill conference-responsible salary-paying-units (such as Extension Ministry or new start appointments) in 2013. This billed amount will be \$10,895 for each eligible clergyperson, plus their applicable Participant Contributions for ACTIVE CLERGY as noted in RECOMMENDATION 3: PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTION RECOMMENDATIONS].

VUMPI's Pension, Health & Welfare Reserve Fund may be used to subsidize related apportionments as needed.

Pre-1982 Pension Plan – Past Service Rate (PSR) & Apportionment Components

VUMPI recommends the 2013 Pre-1982 Apportionment of \$1,387,695. VUMPI recommends the 2013 PSR to remain at \$560.

The Virginia Annual Conference provides a retirement pension benefit to all eligible clergy who have served in the conference prior to 1982. This pension plan pays the greater of: (1) an annual benefit equal to the PSR times years of pre-1982 service; or (2) an annuity amount based upon the participant's cash balance in his/her Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM) Account.

The Virginia Annual Conference establishes the PSR rate each year based on a formula established by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The PSR rate is equal to .9 percent of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The PSR reflects the annual



increases in salaries for active clergy.

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits calculates the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) and the Virginia Conference Average Compensation (CAC), and are as follows:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
DAC	\$62,781	\$63,867
CAC	\$62,142	\$62,205

#### Health Plan Apportionment Components

Retired Clergy:

VUMPI recommends a RHP apportionment of \$5,651,788. In future years, VUMPI will continue to recommend increases in the RHP apportionment at a rate that, when combined with commensurate increases in Participant Contributions, are sufficient to fully fund the RHP's operating cost.

Active Clergy:

VUMPI recommends a CHP apportionment of \$8,445,917. In future years, VUMPI will continue to recommend increases in the CHP apportionment at a rate that, when combined with commensurate increases in Participant Contributions, are sufficient to fully fund the CHP's operating cost.

Incapacitated and Widowed Spouses of Active Pastors:

VUMPI recommends an Incapacitated and Widowed Spouses of Active Pastors apportionment of \$616,345.

### RECOMMENDATION 3: PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended Participant Contribution Rates for all health plans are as follows. In future years, VUMPI will continue to recommend increases in Participant Contribution Rates that, when combined with commensurate increases in health plan apportionments, are sufficient to fully fund the operating cost of all the health plans.

#### 2013 MONTHLY PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS\*

INCAPACITATED WITH CPP BENEFITS /SURVIVING SPOUSES UNDER AGE 65

##### \$500 PPO Medical & Rx Plan

Individual	\$101
Family	\$162

Dental	CORE	MAJOR
Individual	\$13	\$33
Family	\$54	\$102

#### ACTIVE CLERGY \*\*\*

Medical & Rx Plan	POS	750 PPO	CMCP
Individual	\$103	\$93	\$82
Family	\$318	\$288	\$266

\*\*\*Participation in the Wellness Plan can reduce these rates \$15 per month for individual coverage or up to \$30 per month for family coverage.

Dental	CORE	MAJOR
Individual	\$13	\$33
Family	\$54	\$102

#### CLERGY ON VOLUNTARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE and SABBATICAL

Medical & Rx Plan	POS	750 PPO	CMCP
Individual	\$618	\$563	N/A

Family	\$1665	\$1492	N/A
Dental	CORE	MAJOR	
Individual	\$30	\$58	
Family	\$56	\$127	

CLERGY RETIRED under ¶358.2a (with 20 years of service) or ¶358.3 (prior to Age 62 with less than 30 Years of Service)

Medical & Rx Plan	750 PPO	
Individual	\$563	
Family	\$1492	
Dental	CORE	MAJOR
Individual	\$30	\$58
Family	\$56	\$127

CLERGY RETIRED under ¶358.1; ¶358.2b; ¶358.2c or ¶358.3

Retiree Health Plan Vesting & Monthly Contribution Schedule for Clergy:

<u>Total VAUMC Years of Service</u>	<u>Who is Covered?</u>	<u>Retirees &gt; Age 65**</u>	<u>Retirees &lt; Age 65</u>		
			<u>PPO 500</u>	<u>Dental Core</u>	<u>Dental Major</u>
0-9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10-14	Individual Family	\$440 \$735	\$628 \$1,209	\$37 \$54	\$55 \$126
15-19	Individual Family	\$357 \$593	\$509 \$979	\$37 \$54	\$55 \$126
20-24	Individual Family	\$272 \$452	\$389 \$749	\$37 \$54	\$55 \$126
25-29	Individual Family	\$189 \$315	\$270 \$519	\$37 \$54	\$55 \$126
30+	Individual Family	\$105 \$175	\$150 \$287	\$37 \$54	\$55 \$126

\*Includes Deacons-in-Full-Connection enrolled in Clergy Conference Health Plan (CHP).

\*\* Medicare Supplement & Prescription Drug Plan

#### CLERGY RETIREE HEALTH PLAN MONTHLY ACCESS FEE

Individual	\$20
Family	\$20

### RECOMMENDATION 4: 2013 CRSP / CPP / VAUMC SUPPLEMENTAL PLANS Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

The 2013 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:

Plan Compensation (base salary plus housing allowance or parsonage rate in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service, up to the Denominational Average Compensation) times 12 percent.

$$CRSP \text{ Contribution} = (\text{Plan Compensation}) \times (12.0\%)$$

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

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

The 2013 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 rate in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service, up to 200 percent of the Denominational Average Compensation) times 4.4 percent.

$$CPP \text{ Contribution} = (\text{Plan Compensation}) \times (4.4\%)$$

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 7 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.

#### **A. Disability Benefits**

1. For those Clergy disabled on or after Jan. 1, 2002, the 2013 CPP disability benefit equals 70 percent of Plan Compensation, with compensation capped at 200 percent of the DAC. For further details, refer to the CPP Summary Plan Document provided by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

2. For those Clergy disabled prior to Jan. 1, 2002, they will continue to receive the same CPP disability benefit and conference disability supplement per the plan document in-force at the time their disability claim originated. For details, contact the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. office at (804) 521-1100 or 1-800-768-6040.

#### **B. Death Benefits**

1. The CPP death benefit for all active full-time clergy under Episcopal appointment is \$50,000. The beneficiary may choose to have the death benefit paid in 12 equal monthly installments or as one lump sum. Upon retirement, death benefits are reduced to equal 30 percent of the DAC and are payable in a lump sum.

2. The Conference Supplemental Death Benefit for all active full-time clergy under Episcopal appointment is \$25,000. This 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. The Conference pays the entire cost of this Supplemental Death Benefit.

3. In combination, the CPP and Conference Supplemental Death Benefit provide total death benefits of:

- a) \$75,000 to beneficiaries of active clergy participants;
- b) 30% of the DAC + \$5,000 to beneficiaries of retired clergy participants.

#### **Gift Benefit**

A \$1,500 gift is given at the time of retirement or disability (once awarded disability benefits under the Comprehensive Protection Plan) to each clergyperson who has served at least 10 years of service in a full-time Virginia Annual Conference Episcopal appointment in the Virginia Conference with pension credit. Further, a gift to the families of each clergyperson who dies in active service is paid in the same amount as the gift to retired or disabled clergypersons.

### **RECOMMENDATION 5: 2012 PRE-1982 FUNDING PLAN** **Virginia Annual Conference Funding Plan** **For Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program** **Calculated Using Data as of Jan. 1, 2010, Effective Jan. 1, 2012**

Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program is commonly referred to as the "Pre-82" pension plan.

The Virginia Annual Conference Past Service Rate (PSR) is \$560, or 0.9% of our Conference Average Compensation (CAC) which is \$62,142. For the past 6 years, our CAC has increased by an average of approximately 2.0% per year, and we expect that pattern to continue.

Before Jan. 1, 1982 and as part of the rollout of the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP), the General Board of Pension communicated to the denomination that each conference would be required to amortize its unfunded liability within the Pre-1982 Pension Plan over 40 years, or by Dec. 31, 2021.

The Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI), on behalf of the Virginia Annual Conference, will make an annual contribution to Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program of \$1,901,992, based on 2.0% PSR increases and amortized over the period ending December 31, 2021.

VUMPI will fund these benefits through a single annual contribution to the Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB), and made typically during the fourth week of December for the year in which it is due. This contribution, and all subsequent contributions will be made from Virginia Annual Conference Pre-1982 apportionments.

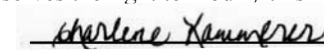
The Pre-1982 Pension Valuation and subsequent required funding, calculated using data as of January 1, 2010, effective January 1, 2012, is calculated by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefit using 7% interest, 2% benefit increases, and the RP-2000 Mortality Table unprojected and summarized below:

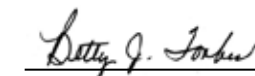
Total Commitment	\$71,269,000
Funded Portion	<u>\$56,533,544</u>
Un-funded Portion	\$14,735,446
Annual Contribution	\$1,901,992
Amortization period (years.)	10
Past Service Rate (\$)	\$560.00
Contingent Annuitant (%)	70.00
Interest Rate Assumption (%)	7.00
COLA Increase Assumption (%)	2.00

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits maintains all necessary record keeping and reporting related to covered participants and is available upon request.

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits deems the valuation reasonable and prudent and that it upholds the standards set forth by the American Academy of Actuaries.

Subject to the mandatory final payment on Dec. 31, 2021, the Virginia Annual Conference reserves the right to modify this Funding Plan.

  
Bishop 4/11/12  
Date

  
Chairperson, Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. 4/11/12  
Date

## **RECOMMENDATION 6: 2013 HOUSING ALLOWANCE/EXCLUSION**

Housing allowance and exclusion for retired and/or disabled clergy:

*Whereas*, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church has and functions through Ministers of the Gospel who are duly ordained or licensed; and

*Whereas*, the practice of The United Methodist Church is to provide a parsonage or rental exclusion as part of the gross compensation for each of its active ordained or licensed clergy; and

*Whereas*, pensions paid to retired ordained or licensed clergy of The United Methodist Church are considered as deferred compensation and are paid to said retired ordained or licensed pastors in consideration of previous, active service; and

*Whereas*, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized that the Virginia Annual Conference is the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental exclusion for retired ordained or licensed pastors who are members of this conference; and

*Whereas*, the disabled pastor has the same legal relationship to an annual conference as does the retired pastor and, thus, this annual conference is also the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental exclusion for a disabled ordained or licensed pastor who is a member of this conference;

*Now Therefore Let It Be Resolved that:*

1. An amount equal to 100 percent of the pension payments received by a retired clergy, or 100 percent of the disability benefit payments received by a disabled clergy, during the year of 2013 be and is hereby designated as a housing allowance and exclusion respectively for each retired or disabled, ordained or licensed clergy of The United Methodist Church who is or was a member of the Virginia Annual Conference at the time of his or her retirement or disability; and

2. The pension or disability payment to which this housing allowance and exclusion applies shall be the pension or disability payment resulting from all service of such retired or disabled, ordained or licensed clergy from all employment by any local church, annual conference, general agency or institution of The United Methodist Church or of any former denomination that is now a part of The United Methodist Church, or from any other employer who employed the clergy to perform duties related to the ministry and who elected to make contributions to the pension or benefit funds for such retired clergy's pension or disabled clergy's benefits.

Note 1. The housing exclusion which may be excluded from a clergy's gross income is limited to the lesser of (1) the amount of the housing allowance designated by the clergy's employer or other appropriate body, (2) the amount actually expended by the clergy to provide his or her housing, or (3) the legally determined fair rental value of the parsonage or other housing provided.

Note 2. Per the Internal Revenue Service, the housing allowance and exclusion is available to clergy, not the clergy person's spouse or surviving spouse.

*Betty J. Forbes, Chair*

## **THE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

The Church Development Team has worked with local, district and conference leadership to be a catalyst in establishing new faith communities and supporting existing local church's efforts to be fruitful and multiplying.

The New Faith Community subgroup of the Church Development Team continues to help create a culture of excellence in the area of new faith community development in our conference. This past year we have continued to resource and encourage recently initiated new faith communities, local churches, district Boards of Mission and their equivalents, the Cabinet and others in our conference to live out the "All Things New" strategy through the planting of new faith communities.

The New Faith Community subgroup is eager to work with local churches and groups of local churches who are discerning where, when and how to give birth to a new faith community. We continue to be available to work with district Boards of Mission or their

equivalents in the new faith community discernment process. With the culmination of the first 5 Talent Academy we optimistically anticipate an increase in the number of existing churches that desire to plant or partner with others to plant a new faith community.

In addition to resourcing our conference in the area of new faith community development, the New Faith Community subgroup also receives, reviews and makes recommendations to the Church Development Team and the Common Table regarding funding for new faith community development proposals. This year we evaluated one proposal.

The Equipping Planter subgroup works to have dialog with those who might consider becoming planters, to help them discern their gifts and God's call about church planting, and to provide training to those who are appointed to plant new faith communities. The New Church Leadership Institute was held in Baltimore in November, where three people from the Virginia Conference began to explore whether God might be calling them to plant a new faith community. Four of these completed their follow up interviews early this year, to further their discernment process. We provided Boot Camp training for pastors of new faith communities in August, 2011, attended by seven people from the Virginia Conference. Coaches were provided for planters of new faith communities. Most recently, we began teams of prayer support for planters and their new faith communities led by the Rev. Beth Anderson.

This has been another great year for the 5 Talent Academy. The vision has always been to help Virginia Conference congregations to take the next step in ministry. We encourage the Church to deliberately invest our congregations in mission and ministry so that in accordance with the familiar parable, we may be multiplied for kingdom use.

This year we have celebrated two powerful events. In our semester on evangelism, we heard stories from five Virginia congregations who had seen God doing notable things in their churches around faith sharing. Each presentation reminded us of the possibilities in all our congregations, independent of size or circumstance. In addition, as we entered our semester on church planting, we had the privilege of hearing from Bishop Pereira of the Cuban Methodist Church. The 5 Talent Academy received a picture of what God is doing in Cuba and what our God can still do in Virginia!

This semester marks the end of our first three years of the 5 Talent Academy. God has blessed us abundantly. Our prayer is now that another 100 Virginia Conference churches will sign up for these next three! Thank you for all the great support and we continue to pray that God will call many congregations forth for our future work together!

A special thanks to Pat Hickman and Mark Ogren for all their support and commitment to make "All Things New" in the Virginia Conference.

*The Rev. M. Wayne Snead, Chair*

## **THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES**

Campus ministry in the Virginia Conference is a dynamic, diverse demonstration of God's creative and inviting love. It is with great honor that I present this report to the 2012 Annual Conference.

After two years of discernment and implementation planning, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries has launched a new system of ministry leadership and measurement, including the ongoing work of a very aggressive and thorough Property Task Force, which is assessing the effective use of property for ministry across our campuses.

Our board itself has been re-tooled and is a smaller, more efficient leadership team. The former Campus Ministry Implementation Team has handed over the change process to the board. To date, we are pleased to report that change continues and improvements are evident. Most significantly we are pleased to see evidence of a shift from the former culture of judgment to a more healthy culture of improvement in campus ministry in Virginia.

I send a huge "thank you" to our campus ministers, including the leaders of our ecumenical ministries, the directors of our Wesley Foundations and the chaplains at our affiliated schools, colleges and universities. These dedicated campus servants have patiently and diligently embraced change, including a cautious but eager willingness to participate in our new

metrics system to report progress toward accomplishing our vision. I also thank the district superintendents, who have willingly embraced a new supervisory role over our campus ministries. And finally, I thank all members of our newly re-tooled board. These individuals are smart, dedicated and creative leaders who have stayed the course of change over these past three years.

Our change ministry is not complete. In fact, effective change is inherently an ongoing process. We acknowledge that we have not yet fully implemented every aspect of change we seek. The process will continue in the coming months as we take better advantage of our new technology and participate together in more training.

Most significantly we are hopeful that by the end of this calendar year will have settled into a rhythm of (holy) conversations about our data – conversations that encourage a healthy examination of our data – together – with a view toward improving our ministry effectiveness.

My tenure as chair is ending sooner than expected. I realize I depart with the business of change unfinished. My confidence, though, is in the skill and dedication among board members and campus ministers who will surely carry the work forward. Thank you for your gracious and consistent encouragement. I am most confident that the Holy Spirit of the risen Christ will guide and empower our campus ministries as they seek to provide opportunities for students to explore, engage, and embody their faith in God.

*The Rev. Jeffrey Harlow, Chair*

### **THE PELL FOUNDATION**

The Josephus Daniels Pell Foundation continues to award grants to individuals who are attending United Methodist-related seminaries in preparation for the ordained ministry through the Virginia Conference.

Over the past years the Pell Foundation has distributed more than \$950,000 to help defray the cost of a seminary education. This year seven students benefited from the grants that averaged \$5,000 per student. Students in seminary should contact our conference Board of Ordained Ministry to submit application for a grant.

We continue to take a prudent and long-term view of our investments portfolio as well as the distribution of the income. It is amazing what Mr. Pell accomplished through his one-time enduring gift to assist students preparing for the ordained ministry.

I want to thank our current Board of Directors for their diligent attention to the management of this gift: Roger L. Amole, James Branscome, Betty Forbes, the Rev. Tom Joyce (vice-president) the Rev. Sylvia Shepherd Meadows and William Young Jr. (secretary/treasurer). If I can be of further help with the purpose of the foundation, please contact me directly through the conference directory at Fairlington United Methodist Church.

*The Rev. Dr. Gregory L. Adkins, President*

## **UNITED METHODIST-AFFILIATED SCHOOLS**

### **FERRUM COLLEGE**

Ferrum College is flourishing with the gracious munificence of our United Methodist friends! The members of the Ferrum community are extremely grateful for the enduring financial and prayerful support for our students. Our institution is proud of its heritage, and blessed by our relationship with The United Methodist Church. Scholarship funding continues to be our number one priority because of ever-increasing student need, and for that reason, we remain committed to our mission of accessibility and affordability. We thank you for all of your scholarship assistance as well as your encouragement in so many other ways.

The spring semester was productive and filled with anticipation, as we began to plan for Ferrum's 100th anniversary in the 2013-2014 academic year, and "The Centennial Campaign." The success of this major fundraising effort will require engagement by the entire Ferrum community, and we will be working with Board members and representatives from faculty and staff for different components of the campaign. We are especially excited about building

an endowment for our Dean of the Chapel position and worship/ministry programming, and there will be special emphasis on academic programs, additional classroom and science lab facilities, endowed professorships, and scholarships.

As part of the growth on our campus, we have completed twelve significant capital projects, and we continue to receive accolades for our academic and athletic programs from students, families and the community. We received a major gift from the Cargill Foundation that will help fund our Garber Hall science lab renovation plans. Last summer's NASCUMC meeting proved to be outstanding, as Ferrum was recognized as "one of the top 10 rural colleges" that are fulfilling their mission of access, affordability, diversity and sustainability. Our faculty is undertaking general education and curriculum review in the coming year and will be working towards a "contemporary yet traditional" course of study that will prepare our students for today's increasingly complex society.

The University Senate team of The United Methodist Church visited Ferrum last year and gave us an outstanding review. They follow the SACS 10-year cycle and review their 125 U.S. colleges and universities based on criteria including Institutional Integrity, Program Quality, Financial Stability and Church Relatedness. They are particularly interested in ensuring that diversity and academic freedom are priorities on each campus. Ferrum was cited as a model for enrollment growth and fiscal conservation. Special accolades were given to Wes Astin, our Dean of the Chapel. The Rev. Astin is consistently ranked among the top chaplains on any of our campuses. He leads our students to spiritual fulfillment through service to God, family, and community. For the third consecutive year, he traveled with a group of Ferrum students during spring break to visit the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. The students are enriched by this service to those less fortunate and return to Ferrum deepened in faith, character and patience.

We are pleased to have continually increasing support from alumni, friends, and foundations who want to partner with us as we guide our young men and women to become "principled leaders for the future." It takes each and every one of us to build a better college, a stronger community, and a world filled with opportunities. It is our steadfast prayer that Ferrum will continue to thrive and succeed. Thank you to all members of the Virginia Conference who recommend Ferrum to potential students. Your investment in Ferrum is an important key to our success. Please continue to remember our campus community and our students in your prayers.

*Jennifer L. Braaten, President*

### **RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE**

Randolph-Macon College achieves its mission of "developing the mind and character of its students" by balancing a demanding academic program with individualized attention or "moments of connection" between its exceptional faculty and students. The student-faculty ratio is 11:1 and the average class size is 15 students.

The 2011-2012 academic year began with a total enrollment of 1,259 students. The Class of 2015 is the largest freshmen class in Randolph-Macon's history.

The college kicked off a \$100 million campaign, "Building Extraordinary," in April, 2011. This campaign, which launched with \$67 million in gifts already committed, is designed to support facilities, greater opportunities for faculty and students and programs that support the continued improvement of student outcomes through career and graduate school preparation. The goals for the campaign are set forth by the college's strategic and master plans.

The college's Master Plan is "Randolph-Macon On The Move." Phase One construction projects include a new Student Center at Brock Commons, The John B. Werner Pavilion at McGraw-Page Library addition and renovations to Day Field (football/lacrosse). Completed projects include Andrews Hall, a freshmen residence facility named in honor of United Methodist pastor Ira Andrews, The Hugh Stephens Field at Estes Park (baseball), a new Tennis tennis complex, and renovations to both Haley and Fox Halls. Future construction includes the Birdsong Residence Hall and the Copley Science Center.

Randolph-Macon received a grant from The Japan Foundation Center for Global

Partnership (CGP) to strengthen Japanese Studies, a part of the college's Asian Studies program, in memory of R-MC alumna Taylor Anderson ('08). Anderson perished during the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that devastated parts of Japan.

The A. Purnell Bailey Pre-Ministerial Scholarship Program for Ordained Ministry, designed to support students who express an interest in a Christian vocation in ordained ministry, continues to meet with success on campus. The program established its first class in 2004, and seven students are currently enrolled in the program. This scholarship is awarded to a limited number of selected students each year. Students receive half-tuition scholarships for the first two years and full tuition for junior and senior years, mentoring and assistance in fulfilling the requirements needed for acceptance into seminary in the The United Methodist Church. Two internships in a ministry setting are also mandatory during the students' college careers.

Student outreach through community service continues to be an important aspect of a Randolph-Macon College education. Students are actively engaged in Habitat for Humanity, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, and in April, students will volunteer for "Macon-A-Difference Day," which is held annually in conjunction with Earth Day.

*John E. Klein, President*

### **RANDOLPH-MACON ACADEMY**

I am pleased to report that Randolph-Macon Academy (R-MA) continues to make significant progress towards reaching the following vision: "Randolph-Macon Academy is the co-ed college-preparatory, military school of choice in the world for families seeking a values-based, academically challenging, structured environment." This lofty vision was created by the R-MA Board of Trustees in partnership with the faculty and staff. The vision governs our day-to-day work and significantly influences our strategic decisions. Of course, we view vision accomplishment as a long-term proposition. You will note our vision does not suggest that we are to be the largest military prep-school in the nation; instead we are striving to be a values-based and academically challenging institution. We want to be the prep school of choice for families seeking a high quality education. This is a very different proposition from the stereotypical military prep-school. The key point is that we are serious about our vision and making great progress in reaching it. Like most organizational visions, the journey itself is as important as the actual destination; the attainment of excellence is elusive, but the pursuit is making R-MA a better school.

Given our vision, how do we operate day-to-day? What do we stand for? How do we interact with our students? What are we all about? These critical questions are answered in our statement of educational philosophy: The R-MA community (students, faculty, staff, parents, trustees, and alumni/ae) believes that every student at R-MA is curious and capable. Our positive interaction and personal attention inspires the students' curiosity and confidence to learn throughout their personal and professional lives. We believe that the personal attention of the teacher makes the difference in the classroom. We believe parents, teachers, and administrators help students succeed by working together on academic aspirations, leadership, self-reliance, character development and service to others. We heartily believe students do their very best when they are known, respected, and encouraged.

Like our vision, this statement is a product of our R-MA community commitment. This philosophy underpins and drives our daily lives at the Academy. This is who we are – and what we stand for. At R-MA, our philosophy is routinely practiced and it gives us the touchstones for responsible adult and student behaviors.

I know that many organizations have fancy visions and philosophy statements; these statements are typically developed and "issued" to the faculty and do not really influence behavior. I am proud that at Randolph-Macon Academy, these statements are meaningful and they are acted upon – and in my view, make us a much better institution!

As I finish my 15th year as the president, I have never been more acutely sensitive to the positive impact of our affiliation with the Virginia Conference and The United Methodist Church. While public schools are busy purging references to God and eliminating patriotic

ceremonies and pledges, we are teaching Bible classes, attending church services, praying, worshiping and conducting patriotic ceremonies. I am so proud to be associated with a values- and character-based institution where love of God and country are encouraged.

I wish to thank the churches of the Virginia Conference for their wonderful support of the education apportionment. I know these are difficult economic times. Please be assured the funds allotted to R-MA provide scholarships for deserving Methodist families and to support our school's ministry. May God bless you for your loyal support of R-MA. We are eternally grateful.

*Maj. Gen. Henry M. Hobgood, USAF (Ret.), President*

### **RANDOLPH COLLEGE**

Randolph College had a remarkable 2011-2012 academic year. The class of 2015 arrived in August in larger numbers and with an improved academic profile. Three new tenure-track faculty members also arrived in August and are already contributing greatly to the intellectual community at Randolph. Additionally, the college has been fortunate to see increased financial support from its alumnae and alumni, both in terms of actual dollars as well as the percentage of this group who give.

December was an important month, as our decennial reaffirmation of accreditation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools successfully came to a conclusion. This included approval of our Quality Enhancement Plan, Bridges Not Walls, which will focus on intercultural competence. The faculty have approved a new first-year experience program to be implemented in the fall of 2012 with a passport program that will encourage first-year students to engage in a variety of different activities on campus. Additionally, the faculty have approved a new major, Sport and Exercise Studies, along with a new minor in multimedia journalism, both to begin in this fall.

Our faculty continues to receive significant national recognition. *Newsweek* and *The Daily Beast* named the Randolph College faculty No. 1 out of all colleges and universities in the country for accessibility. The college was named a "best college" by *U.S. News and World Report*, *Forbes*, *The Princeton Review* and *Washington Monthly*. Perhaps most notably, *The Princeton Review* named Randolph one of the top 75 "best values" in private higher education, reaffirming our commitment to provide a world-class education at an affordable cost. This distinction is due, in part, to Randolph's commitment to provide more than \$9.1 million in institutional grants to students.

All of us at Randolph College remain thankful for the strong relationship that exists between the college and the Virginia Conference. Randolph has been undergoing its decennial review with the University Senate of the The United Methodist Church and, as a part of this process, we are reminded of the many important roles that the church has played in the college's history and continues to play today. I am particularly appreciative to District Superintendent Larry Davies and The Rev. Lee Sheaffer for their counsel as we prepared for the University Senate review and as we continue to discuss ways to maintain a strong relationship between the college and the conference..

*Robert R. Lindgren, President*

### **SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY**

Shenandoah University is committed to continuing its emphasis on Charles Wesley's admonition to "unite the pair so long disjoined, knowledge and vital piety."

With the Rev. Dr. Rhonda VanDyke Colby moving from the Office of Spiritual Life to become the Vice President for Student Life early last year, we welcomed the Rev. Dr. Justin Allen as the new Dean of Spiritual Life and the Director of the Institute for Church Professions. In addition to a strong team of four staff persons to lead the vibrant spiritual life emphasis on campus, we also continue to be blessed with the presence, knowledge, and visionary leadership of our Bishop-in-Residence, Ray Chamberlain.

*Connectional Engagement*

This year we have spent a considerable amount of time focusing on our connection within

the Virginia Conference. Working with the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the Cabinet, Shenandoah University continues its leadership in *Calling 21*, a summer internship program. However, new connections throughout the denomination are also occurring.

- This year, with the help of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, we initiated Launch, a vocational discernment retreat for high school students, where we explored our calling among the beauty and challenges of God's creation.

- General Conference is an important time in the life of the church, and it is equally important for students to use this as a learning opportunity. Our Spiritual Life team traveled with nine SU students and two former Calling 21 students to experience the intricate workings of The United Methodist Church. They learned the value of holy conferencing and the global nature of our denomination.

#### *New Financial Commitments*

We are proud to announce the creation of two new endowed funds within Spiritual Life:

- The Rev. Don VanDyke Colby Scholarship was established this year. The first recipient, Nicholas Ruxton (James River District), received the award in honor of the ministry of Rev. VanDyke Colby. This scholarship will be awarded yearly to a *JustFaith* Christian Leadership program student.

- Additionally, another endowment was established to further develop the *JustFaith* program through the Institute for Church Professions. This endowment will enable our students the ability to build relationships through international mission trips, attend General Conference and be present at premier leadership conferences throughout the United States.

#### *Serving Our Community*

We are committed to being involved in our communities both near and far as we serve others.

- Six days a week, students share in table fellowship with homeless guests. Students from the Hungry Hearts group on campus take food five days a week from the Allen Dining Hall to the Salvation Army, where they share a meal and have fellowship with the guests. Additionally, Sundays during the first half of the spring semester, students take food to a local church hosting the Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS).

- In January, 16 students and staff traveled to Alabama on a mission trip. The team helped provide relief from the April 2011 tornadoes while they worked with families, Habitat for Humanity and the North Alabama Conference Disaster Response Team.

- Shenandoah Conservatory and the Spiritual Life Office added a new international mission trip this year to Guatemala. During spring break, 10 students, faculty, and staff traveled to Guatemala to teach music and repair some of the schools. The Division of Nursing again traveled to Brazil to serve on the John Wesley Medical Boat, and students in the Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy and Pharmacy programs traveled to Nicaragua.

#### *Community Enrichment*

We realize that part of our calling as a United Methodist institution is to reach out and provide support for our entire Shenandoah University community. This year, we began two new programs to assist and support our faculty and staff.

- During the summer, over 150 staff and faculty participated in Our Turn, a wellness initiative. This program focused on the physical, emotional, and spiritual sides of wellness.

- In response to what can be a trying time, the Office of Spiritual Life held a worship service entitled The Blue Holidays at the beginning of Advent. Students, faculty, and staff had a chance to gather, reflect on loss, and prepare for the holidays ahead that occasionally bring sorrow.

Finally, it is my joy to announce that we installed two new trustees at the October meeting of the board. Elaine B. Aikens and Marjorie Lewis joined our team, dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our students.

I can assure you that Shenandoah University is embodying the mission of The United Methodist Church as we simultaneously seek to engage our calling to educate and inspire leaders for our church and world.

*Tracy Fitzsimmons, President*

## **VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE**

The academic year at Virginia Wesleyan College has been filled with momentous accomplishments and a year-long celebration of our 50 years of growth and success in engaging students in a rigorous liberal arts education that will prepare them to meet the challenges of life and career in a complex and rapidly changing world.

In the 50 years since its chartering, Virginia Wesleyan College has grown into a nationally recognized, independent, co-educational, liberal arts college that has graduated over 8,000 men and women who have taken their places in the world and have achieved success in fields as diverse as education, law, science, health care, social services and the ministry.

In May 2011, 290 students graduated from Virginia Wesleyan, earning degrees in 34 different majors. Currently, the college has more than 1,400 undergraduate students with a student faculty ratio of 12.9 to 1.

The Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students would like to thank those in the United Methodist community for their leadership and support during this 50th anniversary year and throughout our history.

In the fall of 2011, revolutionary new curriculum changes, four years in development, were introduced. "Inquiry guided learning" encourages students to become active learners by focusing on intellectual curiosity as a catalyst for acquiring knowledge and integrating that knowledge into real life experiences. The curriculum is based on a four-credit hour course rather than the traditional three-credit hour system. Students are using the fourth hour for in-depth, independent study which can include additional reading assignments, research or writing, community service externships, group projects and other activities. Whether it's keeping journals or journeying into the community, the focus of the curriculum is to make connections.

The Department of Religious Studies is nationally known and offers courses from a variety of different approaches. During the 2011-2012 academic year, one course on the History of Methodism is of particular note. As part of the course, students have done research papers on the history of Wesleyan traditions and have been quite itinerant, circuit riding to various local churches like Monumental and First Methodist in Virginia Beach. The recent publications of Dr. Terry Lindvall from New York University Press (Sanctuary Cinema, 2007 and Celluloid Sermons, 2011) have showcased features on the use of moving pictures by the Methodists from their 1919 Centenary in Ohio to later work with the Protestant Film Commission.

Through the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom, students have had an opportunity to explore a variety of subjects through lecture series that include topics such as Religion in the Public Schools, which deals with problems involved at the intersection of religion and public education; Religion on Campus, a semester-long series of conversations about religious issues in college, with student religious leaders, chaplains, and administrators from colleges and universities from throughout Tidewater and the Peninsula; and Some Hard Questions About Our Faiths, a series of interfaith dialogues that ask the difficult questions we often seek to avoid, but in an open society we must all consider.

Now entering his second year as the College's Chaplain, the Rev. Greg West is having a positive impact on our students, on campus and beyond. There are numerous vital ministries happening through the Chaplain's office. Marlin Ministry, our student leadership group, works with Chaplain West to pray, praise, plan and implement ministries and outreaches to the campus. Chaplain West is leading LIFE Groups which are loosely based on the Wesleyan Class Meetings. We also have students leading these LIFE Groups, which bring students to the intersection of the Scriptures and their lives. The worshipping community continues to grow in faith and numbers at our two weekly services. Chaplain West is also escorting our students on abroad programs. This year he returned to Nicaragua for a Spring Break Mission Trip with 10 students and one professor. They will be working with the House of Hope, a ministry to women and children who have been trapped in prostitution or human trafficking and with several local churches.

Virginia Wesleyan's commitment to social responsibility has been evident throughout the year in a variety of projects, such as the 5th annual Homeless Shelter hosted on our campus.

Our students are also participating in projects such as the Empty Bowls fund-raiser and Marlins Read neighborhood tutoring project.

The college was pleased to host The Center for Sacred Music's 2011 Summer Conference which launched the 50th Anniversary celebration. Preceded by a reception for the families of those who were instrumental in the College's founding, the concert led by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's Mac Wilberg, attracted more than 600 people to Christ and St. Luke's Church in Norfolk and brought special attention to the center's distinguished summer program as well as to the 50th anniversary of Virginia Wesleyan. The conference itself attracted a record classroom attendance of 203, drawn from 18 states, Canada and the Netherlands.

Throughout this 50th Anniversary, the College has celebrated its Methodist heritage and its strong ties to the larger community, while continuing to reconfirm its aspiration to be a supportive community that is committed to higher learning, social responsibility, ethical conduct, and religious freedom.

*William Greer, President*

## **CAMPUS MINISTRIES**

### **CAMPUS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AT MARY WASHINGTON**

The Campus Christian Community is an ecumenical campus ministry on the campus of Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg. It is supported by Presbyterians, United Methodists, Episcopalians and Lutherans. The motto is: "Welcoming all people, the Campus Christian Community witnesses to the love and power of God in Jesus Christ. The CCC ministers with students, faculty, and staff of Mary Washington College and the surrounding community through worship, study, fellowship, and service, and provides a forum to explore and question issues of faith and life." This mission continues to serve as a guide for all we do together as a Christian community and reflects our ultimate objective to incarnate God's love and mercy to all people.

Our primary weekly meeting continues to be our Thursday evening "TableTalk" program. Every Thursday from 5-7 p.m., 30-50 students gather to enjoy a meal provided by one of our supporting churches and engage in conversation about a topic of interest and concern. I speak at many of these meetings but often we will welcome guest speakers from the college community who will speak from their experience and academic expertise. We also invited several of our area ministers to lead one of our Thursday night discussions. Students also take part leading our meetings on topics such as Honduras missions, diversity, wisdom from seniors or Passover. Each week a major part of our Thursday evenings is our time of sharing and prayer. Students will open their lives up to one another and listen to stories of joy and prayers of concern.

We continue with our Wednesday afternoon Eucharist service. Not long back we built a small prayer room just off our main meeting room that is now set up for worship. Again we used the lectionary to read through the stories of Scripture and listen to each other's observations and reflections. We continue to use *Taize* style music and enjoyed the quiet and peaceful atmosphere. The prayer room is also available during the day for students to spend a few moments of meditation and prayer. We had 11 student leaders plan and implement the program for this past year at the CCC. Every Monday evening, these student leaders meet to brainstorm ministry ideas and plan the details of CCC events. It was exciting to watch these students learn how to work together and listen to each other's opinions.

In September we began planning our yearly short-term mission trip, scheduled for December. We again went to Honduras, where we volunteered in El Progreso. This year we helped build a new school room for one of the many poor villages. We also helped out in a nutrition center that cares for malnourished babies, and spent a day volunteering at Pronino, a home for street boys and the state run orphanage in San Pedro Sula. We then spent several days at Our Little Roses, an orphanage for abandoned or abused girls.

These mission trips can have a powerful impact on the lives of students. Many of our students alter their career plans and life goals as a result of these service experiences. As an

example, one of our recent graduates, Christine Exley, is completing her second year in a PhD. Program at Stanford University in Economics and will study economic development in the third world. Her interests were dramatically shaped by her involvement in several short term mission experiences with the CCC. Christine won many awards for her academic achievements including the alumni award given to the student displaying an outstanding combination of leadership, academic excellence and service.

Many of our graduates from last year are doing volunteer work such as Mike Hollister, serving with AmeriCorp, and Taylor Hall who is with the Peace Corps in Paraguay.

Several small groups met this year including a men's group and a women's group. These are support groups that focus on relationship building, discussion, and prayer. We also had Friday evening activities, which is a casual gathering of college students, watching a movie together, playing board games or just spending an hour or two together at the end of a busy week.

A new program for us this year was "Coffeeology," which met on Sunday nights. It is a time to drink coffee and talk theology in a very open, supportive and creative way. We had a very nice turn-out for this weekly program of honest questioning and healthy interaction. Our students also used "Coffeeology" to reach out to our area high school students. A couple Sunday night sessions were opened to a few youth groups who joined us for this honest interchange of thoughts and ideas. This was a hug hit among the high school students and it was also greatly appreciated by our supporting churches. We will continue this next year.

This past year I was able to visit many of our area churches and sometimes preach a sermon about our work with students. Each time the congregations are eager to hear about what students are thinking and doing. They are happy to participate in campus ministry. Our mission trips are not possible without the involvement of our congregations. Not only did they give money to help students go on the trip, but then they opened their doors to listen to the students' stories of their experience.

Young adulthood is a very dynamic time in life. These young people are moving out of adolescence and beginning their final move into full adulthood. It is not an easy time as they begin to make their own decisions about what they will believe and how they will live. It is so important that the church has a presence among students as they make this often bewildering transition. It is my hope that the church will continue to increase its sense of commitment toward this next generation of church and community leaders. The college years are an in-between time. As Henri Nouwen has said, they are moving out of their parents home but have yet to establish a home of their own.

I continue to feel lucky to be called to the task of creating a network of support for these students who are having experiences and making choices that can influence the rest of their lives. It is a great privilege to minister in a place that has had such a long tradition of faithful service to the community of this fine university. I look forward to the enthusiasm, ministry, relationships and new experiences in the year to come.

*The Rev. Robert Azzarito, Campus Minister*

### **WESLEY-WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION AT NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY**

Our year began with a Leadership Worship Service facilitated by the student president for the Wesley-Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State University. More than 15 students made a commitment to join the Wesley-Westminster Student Fellowship, which is an official organization recognized by the Administration of Norfolk State University.

Our students are engaged in their faith journey through activities that will enjoy the company of Christ in the mist of our weekly Meet and Greet fellowships held in the new Student Center on campus. We provide an interactive approach to Biblical application by exploring with the students existential issues using the theme "If Christ is the answer, what are the questions?" each week at our Bible study series.

For those students who wish to embody their faith walk, we offer regular sessions introducing the art and practice of listening to God through meditation. In addition to these activities, the ministry is invited to partner and advise many of the other student organizations offered on the campus of Norfolk State, which serves more than 7,000 students. The university

utilizes me frequently to provide assistance in the Counseling Center, specifically to a board that deals with sexual abuse issues. The campus ministry program continues to serve the staff, faculty and students in their Christian development.

The school administration continues to provide rooms and equipment, internet and mailroom accommodations for the Wesley-Westminster Foundation - but not having the use of our own facility is still a great concern. During the months of December, January, February and March 2011 - 2012, many friends, board members, and Norfolk State building construction professor Walter Parker have volunteered their services for the campus ministry house renovation project. A United Methodist Youth Group of a local congregation, grades 8 through 12, helped in insulating the downstairs interior area during Lent. Walking by faith and not by sight has been the building block for our achievements in this ongoing campus ministry project.

We are thankful and grateful to all who labor toward the completion of this long awaited goal. As we look to the future, we stand united in faith, in prayer, and in execution to the mission of Wesley-Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State and The United Methodist Church, to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

*The Rev. Larry Smith, Director/Campus Minister*

### **PACE CAMPUS MINISTRY AT VCU**

Our year began with a Student Fair at the Siegel Center, where more than 5,000 students gathered to see (and be seen) what the service organizations have to offer for them. Our student leaders were there to prevent an over view of the ministry and to invite the new students of VCU to walk with us on their journey while here. With more than 45 recognized faith groups to choose from, we are strategically located to be their ministry of choice.

Our new initiatives are doing extremely well serving more than 400 students monthly via study and worship! A great deal of credit goes to our intern, Vernon Gordon, and the student leaders who support and share leadership with him.

We continue to provide a welcoming space where other ministries may also serve the Kingdom of God: Aletheia College Ministry, LJC Korean Church, Staples Mills Baptist outreach, and Edge Ministry for special occasions. Our building is a tool that allows us to extend our ministry's reach. This also helps us to adequately maintain this structure.

We offer ministry opportunities throughout the week as well as offer opportunities for VCU's student body to enter into service to the Community through Highland Support Program and United Virginia. Both of these organizations use our building to reach Social Work and mission oriented students.

*The Rev. James G. Daniely, Director*

### **TIDEWATER WESLEY FOUNDATION AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY**

"That's where the hard-core Christians have concerts." These were the words overheard by a sibling of a student leader during our annual celebration of Old Dominion University(ODU)'s homecoming football game.

On a recent Facebook post, a student was asking directions to the Baptist Collegiate Ministry. The response was "oh, it's right next to the Wesley House – you know, the place where all those concerts happen."

In an article published on Feb. 1, in the *Mace and Crown*, the student newspaper at ODU, the Wesley House was described "as a place people will come to listen to some crazy music and have a good time."

The idea to create an entertainment venue at the Tidewater Wesley Foundation for students at ODU and in the Hampton Roads area was born at a meeting of our leadership team shortly after an earthquake hit Virginia and before a hurricane delayed the opening of ODU for a few days. The students wanted to do something that would attract others to our building, would support local music and assist us in our goal to be a place "that offers spiritual discovery and growth, leadership development, fellowship and service to the world through our relationship with Jesus Christ."

During the academic year, we hosted 26 shows. More than 75 bands have played and stayed in our building since September. We've hosted touring acts from New Jersey, Arkansas and Texas. Hundreds of students and young people have cycled through our doors and several have taken the free Bibles we offer at all our shows and have had conversations with several more about faith. During the summer, we hope to offer weekly concerts that will draw high school students and youth groups so that we may welcome new generations of students and prepare them to be a part of campus ministry when they come to ODU.

Our shows are an example of radical hospitality as we welcome all genres of music and all types of people. We only ask that people respect that we are a church-based campus ministry and to be open to what we offer. Our concerts always begin with prayer and when our lineup includes Christian musicians, we offer the chance for testimony.

These student-led events are teaching practical skills in sound production, management, and business in a non-profit faith based environment. We are not preparing leaders for the future. We are training and sending leaders for the church right now.

The success of this program has emboldened our student leadership team and allowed them to dream some big dreams. Our current five-year plan includes establishing a summer residential service experience for youth groups that will partner local non-profits and churches in the Park Place community and all of the Hampton Roads area. The college students who will lead this program will learn how to run a residential camp and be spiritual leaders to junior high and high school students.

We expect to kick-off a capital campaign in the 2013-2014 academic year to fund a transformation of the building. The renovations will add capacity to our building for shows, worship, and other events; provide a space for our summer mission program; and construct several apartments for residents who will live in an intentional Christian community during the academic year. These three programs will increase student leadership opportunities, provide stability in student leadership, allow the Board of Directors to move to a mentoring model of non-profit management and add to the income streams of our campus ministry.

We continue in our mission of outreach, evangelism and hospitality with our longstanding programs like "Table Talk." We continue to offer small group studies, individual counseling, and opportunities for worship. We continue to offer service opportunities through our partnership with the Society of St. Andrew and Park Place UMC. We still offer space to AA and NA, the ODU music department, student groups and a Korean church. Our ministry is a vital part of the fabric of ODU and our presence is an important witness to the work of Jesus Christ and The United Methodist Church.

On April 21, we celebrated the first-ever "Stakeholder" meeting for the Tidewater Wesley Foundation. Students volunteered their time to prepare a free spaghetti dinner for laity, clergy and other "stakeholders" with an interest in the Tidewater Wesley Foundation. At that meal, we outlined our vision and called on the church to support this vision.

July 1 marks the beginning of the Tidewater Wesley Foundation's 30th year in ministry. We are calling on alumni to reconnect with the ministry and plan on a celebration to occur in April 2013. Please check out our website to see the way that you can connect to all the wonderful things happening at the Tidewater Wesley Foundation at <[www.wesleyhouseodu.org](http://www.wesleyhouseodu.org)>. Please continue to support us with your prayers, your gifts and your service.

*The Rev. John Haynes Jr., Director*

### **UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES AT VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

United Campus Ministries (UCM) at Virginia State University (VSU) is very grateful to Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church and the new James River District for their prayerful and generous support of our call to provide opportunities at VSU to impact lives and to make disciples of Christ through Christian Worship and Education, Fellowship, and Community Service!

*Christian Worship and Education*

Sunday services take place on campus at 2 p.m. Bible Study is held on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Student leadership and participation in these endeavors has been manifested through the



birth and rebirth of several ministries! In March 2011, was the development of the *Avodah* music ministry. *Avodah* is a 25-member praise and worship choir with a band rendering contemporary Christian and Gospel music during services on and off campus. *Avodah* has been blessed to take part in worship in many churches throughout the James River District, including Highland UMC and Bermuda Hundred UMC.

In the fall, a diaconate ministry was established to assist with the liturgical elements of worship and with serving communion. This ministry is comprised of six students who rotate duties on a weekly basis. After a semester-long hiatus, our praise dancers remerged with a new look, new student leadership structure and a new name of Chara. These students gracefully minister through dance, adding a special touch to service on the fourth Sunday of each month.

These three ministries have made a tremendous difference in the atmosphere of services by sharing the gospel message through creative and contemporary expressions that appeal to peers while creating new and exciting ways for students to get involved and exercise their gifts in ministry!

#### *Christian Fellowship*

Christian fellowship has included an array of spirit-filled activities for VSU students who desire to “gather with the saints” on Friday nights. In conjunction with the Department of Recreation and Leisure, we host an event each month of the semester that mixes faith and fun. At the Table is a game night where students gather for a multitude of table games including ping-pong, billiards, chess, checkers, Uno, Spades, Connect Four and more. Wade in the Water is a pool party where we take a break from the warm weather and enjoy swimming, water games and good fellowship. Crazy Praise is an open mic gospel music extravaganza, where all are invited to come and share their musical gifts and talents via high energy and passionate praise and worship. Each session includes devotional time during where the good news is shared with all who are gathered.

#### *Community Service*

UCM was welcomed by Communities In Schools at Ettrick Elementary for year two of the Men of Troy and the Little Princesses mentoring programs. Two dozen VSU male and female students serve a corresponding number of third, fourth and fifth graders as positive role models and guides who assist them in their journey to adolescence. Members of the faculty and staff of VSU continue to partner with the Dinwiddie County Department of Social Services’ monthly USDA food commodities distribution. Last fall UCM organized groups of students to work with Habitat for Humanity to build a home for an eligible VSU employee in Petersburg and registered 18 participants for the annual Walk Against Hunger and raised \$477.00 for the cause.

In addition to these highlights, United Campus Ministries has benefitted from interns from the Mass Communications Department who have managed our online communications. Our Facebook and university website pages are both managed by VSU students who have blessed us with their time, technological expertise and desire to serve the Lord! UCM continues to share the “Thought for the Day” to the entire campus community via the e-mail system. These motivational statements are inclusive of a variety of faith traditions out of respect for the diversity of belief systems throughout the Virginia State family.

We pray for God’s continued blessing of our ministry and yours. Thanks once again for your support!

*The Rev. Delano Douglas, Director*

### **WESLEY FOUNDATION AT VIRGINIA TECH**

The students at the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech have truly been “Loving Out Loud” this year as we seek to embody the message of Matthew 22: 37-40, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Our faith community is excited about the many opportunities we have to gather for worship, discipleship, fellowship and mission. Every aspect of our ministry is focused on these four

basic tenets of our Christian faith. As the students seek to “Invite and equip students to explore, engage, and embody an active faith in God,” our students believe it is vital to “Love Out Loud” in order to accomplish that vision.

From handing out free hot dogs to students at the bars in Blacksburg on a Friday night to Fall Retreat at Camp Dickenson to weekly Communion meditations and Crossroads worship to our spring break mission trip, Wesley has made this theme come to life. It was during our weekly Crossroads worship that a student said “The Wesley Foundation truly saved my life... the love each person showed me stopped me from taking my own life.”

Leading worship at local churches throughout the year enables students to use their gifts and grace to love our “connexion” that nurtures them in their Christian journey by preaching, singing, and joining in worship.

This year 45 students decided to take their spring break week to travel to Swanquarter, N.C., and love through mission to those affected by Hurricane Irene last fall. Our weekly Bible studies, small groups, and intramural sports provide ample opportunities to grow in love of their selves and God.

The Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech is alive and the students are passionate about being nurtured at Table and sent out into the world to be the hands and feet of Christ. It is a place where lives are being transformed and the love of Christ is overflowing. One of the survivors of Hurricane Irene, whose house we had to demolish in order for another one to be built, exclaimed, “the love these students showed me this week is a love that can’t be put into words...all I can say is thank you...thank you for showing me the love of God.”

*The Rev. Bret Gresham, Campus Minister*

### **WILLIAM & MARY WESLEY FOUNDATION**

In campus ministry, each year brings new opportunities for mission and ministry. In following God’s call to embody Christ’s love, our community lives out that love in the William and Mary community and beyond. We continue to have Bible study, small groups, and activities that nurture the spirits of the young adults who come our way, as well as so much more.

Each calendar year, we install a new leadership team. In December we said goodbye to the awesome leadership of the Young Adult Council 2011: Bonnie Roane, president; Owen Yancey, worship; Jane Baldwin-Tolliver, discipleship and service; Alexa Muri, communications; Heather Morris and Tara Miller, fellowship. In January, we welcomed our new leadership team of Owen Yancey, president; Jane Baldwin-Tolliver, worship; Jamie Lewis, discipleship and service; Marni Robins, communications; Jannette Morris and Rachel Fugate, fellowship. It is a joy and a privilege to serve with such dedicated and compassionate persons.

This year, we continued to invite the wider community to join us in fellowship and service to God and one another. Our Sunday night program continues to be the mainstay of our programming ministry. We have a program from 5-6 p.m. followed by dinner. This year we had a variety of speakers, from college President Taylor Reveley to seminary president and United Methodist pastor, Rebecca Parker, to Revs. Allie Rosner and Edward Hopkins. Other programs ranged from “Whose Line Is It Anyway?” to worship to a discussion of demons right before Halloween. In service, we partnered with the William & Mary gleaning group, as well as students from Old Dominion University in gleaning pumpkins; invited Professor Keith Graber Miller to come and share with the campus community, as well as youth, local pastors, and youth directors about the intersection between faith and sexuality; and we continued working to help feed the community with our annual Potato Drop. Each semester we offer the hospitality of lemonade and cookies, not only to the incoming freshmen and their families at move-in, but to the entire campus community at different times throughout the year. At the end of each year we carry out Operation Taco to offer food and grace to the students celebrating the end of the school year. Finally, we travelled this year to Atlanta for our spring break mission trip and, as usual, had a wonderful group of students, as well as a student from the local community college, and a board member to go. Hampton UMC once again

graciously loaned us their church van to use on the trip, and the amazing Ron Rumsey was our driver, friend and so much more.

In addition to the events and projects that we do, we continue to partner with other campus groups as well. We participated in a movie and panel discussion on non-violent solutions to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, an ecumenical discussion of different understandings of communion, a guest speaker to discuss scripture and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) issues, a discussion of faith and persons who are LGBT, an interfaith dinner to listen and learn from one another about our different faith traditions, as well as continuing to take the lead in planning the annual Service of Lessons and Carols.

We reach out beyond the campus to our local churches as well. Our worship team, The Wesley Liturgists, continues to be a vital ministry to local churches, and they shared at many churches throughout the area. In addition, the partnership with two local churches in our community continues to grow and strengthen. Williamsburg UMC continues to be a place of worship and community for many of our students, and there are strong bonds between the life of the church and Wesley, as evidenced by a covered dish luncheon that was an astounding success, and by students continuing to participate in the worship and music of the church. Wellspring UMC is another local church where students have strong bonds as well. An Adopt-a-Student/Adopt-a-Family program continues to be an amazingly meaningful ministry for the church and the students, and Wellspring is a place of meaningful worship as well.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the campus minister here. The young adults and the entire Wesley community do an amazing job of living out the love and grace of God!

*The Rev. Max Blalock, Campus Minister*

### **THE VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION**

The Virginia United Methodist Foundation exists to serve the local churches and agencies within the Virginia Conference. It is available to help the local churches and agencies raise money for their programs and ministries by holding workshops on planned giving, which is simply encouraging individuals to make provisions in their estate plans for those churches and agencies that they have supported during their lifetimes.

The foundation is also available to work with local churches to help them establish a permanent endowment where such endowments are appropriate. The foundation offers local churches and agencies the ability to invest their monies, whether they are endowed funds or simply reserve funds, collectively in order to earn more money than they might earn individually. All monies placed with the foundation for investment are invested according to the *Book of Discipline's* Socially Responsible Investing policies.

The Virginia United Methodist Foundation is also available to manage comprehensive church campaigns for local churches for a fee considerably less than outside consultants might charge.

In addition to working with local churches, the foundation also is working in collaboration with United Methodist Family Services, United Methodist Homes, Heart Havens, Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center and the Society of St. Andrew to help facilitate planned gifts as well as significant current gifts. The foundation will be presenting planned giving seminars in conjunction with these agencies to encourage donors to support their various ministries and programs. The foundation and the agencies involved believe that through these collaborations cost savings will result for all involved which will allow more money to be focused on the delivery of services.

The foundation strives to become a true financial resource for the entire conference. It is our plan to add additional professional staff as financially feasible so that we can deliver more services to the local churches and agencies in the area of planned giving and campaign management and eventually an annual stewardship program.

Please let us know how we can better serve your church and the people in it.

*E. Deal Tompkins, President and Executive Director*

### **RETIRED CLERGY HOUSING CORPORATION**

Nancy and I are now in our 18th year of serving the Retired Clergy Housing Corp. Thanks to the vision of the members of the Board of Directors through the years, we have increased our assets from around \$2.5 million to nearly \$5 million. She and I feel a deep sense of gratitude for having been a part of this increase.

Presently, our thoughts are centered on the future needs of the clergy in our Virginia Conference and the ability of our corporation to meet those needs. How many requests from “needy clergy” will we receive? Will the requests be fewer in number or more? If the number is more, will we have homes to fill these requests? Will we be solvent enough financially to meet the needs we may be called upon to fulfill?

Since we are the only conference in The United Methodist Church that offers this kind of service to our needy clergy, we have to rely on our own judgment with help from the Board of Ordained Ministry, the bishop, Cabinet and Board of Pensions to give us clues. So as you can see, there is great difficulty in determining our future needs, or lack thereof, as it relates to the Virginia Conference. In 2011, information was received from all three groups concerning the future and answers are still unclear.

Since this is the first year that someone from our board has not shared with you from the Annual Conference platform, I am hoping you will make a special effort to read this report. My judgment is that we need to be diligent in keeping ahead of our needs as has been true ever since this corporation began in 1932. The needs may vary, however we will always have needy persons. Circumstances may arise which can effect one of us at any time. Therefore, anything we can do as a corporation to help is vital in our planning.

What can you do to help? First, become a member of the “Covenant of Gratitude.” Just \$1 per person ordained as a commissioned provisional member of our conference is a small amount that each clergy and lay member of our conference can contribute toward our financial needs. If you know of someone who might be willing to give their home or property to the Retired Clergy Housing Corp., please encourage that individual by asking them to call me so I can give the proper answers as to how this can be done. Finally, pray for Nancy and me and the members of our board as we plan for the future..

*The Rev. Thomas L. Coffman, President*

### **THE PREACHERS RELIEF SOCIETY**

The purpose of the Preachers Relief Society is reflected in its official or legal name, “The Society for the Relief of Preachers of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and their Families, their Widows and Orphans, Inc.”

This past year several clergy and their families faced with acute financial problems were aided by grants from the society. Those in need of aid should apply to the society through their district superintendent. Grants are made in accordance with the severity of the need and the funds available. The grants are confidential and awarded without conditions. Persons interested in supporting this work are invited to remit contributions through the Virginia Conference or send them directly to our financial advisor: Larry Field, Scott and Stringfellow, 2101 Parks Ave., 402 Pavilion Center, Virginia Beach, VA 23541.

The society wishes to acknowledge with thanksgiving and appreciation the service of W. Alton Carswell. Alton is not only a long-time member of its board but has served it for many years as vice-president. We are grateful to Alton who has indicated he wishes to retire from the board following the election of a new member.

In addition to Alton Carswell, the members of the board of directors are: James Bergdoll (secretary), Sallye Bowen; Robert F. Cofield Jr. (vice-president), K. Dane Mills (treasurer), Henry Rogers, Harold E. White Sr. and myself.

*The Rev. Robert T. Casey, president*

### **THE BISHOPS' FOUNDATION**

The Bishops' Foundation was created by action of the 2011 Annual Conference to provide training for leadership development of both laity and clergy in the areas of evangelism and

preaching in the Wesleyan spirit. Funds previously associated with the three predecessor organizations (the Goodson Foundation, the Stockton Endowment for Evangelism, and the Bishop Pennel Endowment) form the assets of The Bishops' Foundation.

It is the intention of the Virginia Conference that future gifts in honor or memory of bishops of the conference be directed to it.

The foundation is led by a board of directors (five clergy and four laity) nominated by the cabinet. As of Dec. 31, 2011, current assets amount to approximately \$250,000. Endowment funds are invested with the Virginia United Methodist Foundation.

At the present time the board looks forward to providing training events that will benefit both clergy and laity of the conference, particularly in keeping with the goals of United Methodist Vital Congregations and our Virginia Conference's strategic vision. It is the board's intention to actively seek partnerships with other entities of the Conference to provide uniquely focused training programs for leadership development. The board is particularly interested in addressing the "gaps" that may exist in current conference ministry programming with an initial focus on fostering opportunities for young adult laity and clergy to help the church in reaching their generation.

*The Rev. Bill Davidson, Chair*

### **THE SOCIETY FOR WESLEYAN STUDIES**

The Society for Wesleyan Studies (SWS) was established in 1983 to renew Wesleyan themes in the life of the Virginia Conference and in The United Methodist Church. The society sponsors events devoted to the study of issues related to the history, theology, practice and mission of John and Charles Wesley and the Wesleyan tradition. While we seek to understand more thoroughly the richness of our unique heritage, we do so always with an eye toward applying those resources in the service of the contemporary church in its ongoing mission and ministries. Events and membership are open to all interested lay and clergy persons. Continuing Education credit is available at all our events.

Typically the SWS sponsors a major fall seminar and a spring event. This past year's events reflect the intentional efforts of the society to introduce the Virginia Conference to some of the younger and most promising of a new generation of Wesleyan scholars/churchpersons. In October, we hosted the Rev. Dr. Kevin Watson, who engaged us in a spirited and fruitful conversation about "Reclaiming the Wesleyan Class Meeting" for making disciples of Jesus Christ in our time. Our spring event featured the Rev. Dr. Jason Vickers, from United Theological Seminary, who addressed the topic of "Resurrection and the Christian Life: The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Wesleys (and in Methodism today)."

Also in 2011, the society partnered with other conference groups in planning the conference-wide "Ordering of Ministry" event, which gave the Virginia Conference an opportunity to learn about and give input into possible changes to be made at the 2012 General Conference.

We are excited about our fall event (Oct. 7-8), when we will host the Rev. Dr. Daniel Bell, a United Methodist clergyperson and theological ethicist from Lutheran Southern Seminary, who will present the thesis of his book, *Just War as Christian Discipleship*, and lead us in discussing matters of peace and war through an intentionally theological reading and application of the "Just War" tradition.

*The Rev. R. Bruce Johnson*

### **THE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

The conference Commission on Disabilities (COD) is the advocate and educator for its congregations to be inclusive to the children of God with disabilities. We uphold the responsibility of the church to be in ministry with all persons, regardless of their physical and/or mental conditions.

We are the resource group for the conference and our goal is to make worship available to all persons regardless of their disability or challenges in life. We desire that all of God's children are able to make disciples of all people and work in the ministry of the church to the fullest of their

abilities as members of the Body of Christ on every level of the conference. As the disciples of Jesus Christ we strive to provide accessibility, education, opportunities and outlets for ministry to God's children encouraging all to know the grace of God in each other's lives and the power of living in God's will and service so all may be made new in Christ Jesus.

The COD has been busily working. We have and will continue to provide materials for "Disability Awareness Sunday" – the first Sunday in February. We want to encourage all churches to recognize this special Sunday, if not in February, at least sometime during the year. We ask that each church make a part of their ministry an outreach to those who have a mental or physical disability. To look at their facilities and their programs and ask, "Can everyone in our community, our town, our county fellowship, participate and worship with us?" To help congregations to answer this question a "Presentation in a Box" has been developed. It uses props to help people without a disability to get a sense of what it might be like for someone with a disability to worship at their church. Contact the COD for more information.

The commission continues to issue grants to churches for accessibility, programs and respite care. The commission encourages the local churches to complete accessibility audits so that all churches, parsonages, and ministry buildings will be accessible to all God's children.

"Camp Rainbow Connection" continues to provide a week of fun and fellowship for more than 120 campers between the ages of 20-82. The two separate weeks of camp provide a much needed respite for the families and caregivers of the campers, who all have some level of intellectual disability. Eighty-two volunteer staff members, ages 17 to well into the 80s, offered unconditional love to the campers as buddies.

This year COD supported a new sub-group which ministers to the deaf/hard of hearing community. The summer camp called "Camp Loud and Clear" was a huge success. The Rev. Randy Williams reported there were 13 campers who totally enjoyed themselves. The college student assistants and the adults also found the experience to be positive and a blessing. Plans are for 20 campers in 2012. This year's budget was \$10,000 and the cost was \$10,081.

Both Camp Rainbow Connection and Camp Loud and Clear remain in need of volunteers. Please give your time and talents to touch the life of a very special camper, visit the conference website at <[www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org)> for more details and an application.

Christ has called all of us to be ministers of his word to make disciples of all people. Let's set a place at the table for those with disabilities and remove the stumbling blocks in our facilities. Let's welcome and encourage all to worship God in an atmosphere of God's glory and grace. Challenge your congregation and community to touch a life of someone on the edge and bring them into the loving arms of God and to know Christ's salvation.

*he Rev. Douglas E. Hollenbeck, Co-Chair*

### **THE BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP**

The Directing Board of the Board of Discipleship (BOD) spent the last year further developing its new programming approach. While the BOD felt that the organizational structure and plan of work adopted by the Annual Conference in 2010 was on the right track, we wanted to reaffirm with board members as well as adjust the plans where necessary. Toward that end, the BOD engaged a consultant to facilitate a strategic planning process. Three day-long meetings were held last fall to engage the board in this important work.

The BOD combined devotion, prayer, discussion and decision making in order to focus their work and assure a comprehensive outcome and plan. After reviewing its current guiding statements a new mission statement for the BOD was adopted: "Engaging with church leadership to understand and equip the local church so that they may experience the sheer joy of making disciples."

Under the new structure of the BOD, equipping the local church will take place through five Regional Network Teams. A regional team leader will be appointed and trained for each region. This person will first connect with the district superintendents in the region to partner and understand the needs of that district. Assessment Coaches will be recruited and trained to work with regional team leaders. These Assessment Coaches will connect with those churches

in the region that are seeking assistance and support. To further support this system, the BOD will develop and maintain a bank of best practices expertise. The experts will be pulled from various resources. Once the coach understands the needs of the church leadership, the coach will deploy the most appropriate expertise to equip that church.

Finally, the BOD turned its focus to what measurements would constitute the organization's metrics of success. It was discussed and recognized that effective measurement tools have a good balance of stories (qualitative data) and numbers (quantitative).

It's hoped that the Regional Network Team structure will be fully implemented by next spring.

#### *Youth and Young Adult Council*

The Youth and Young Adults are not the church of the future; they are the church of today. The Youth and Young Adults of the Virginia Conference councils are offering their very best to other youth and young adults across Virginia as they serve in leadership positions.

More specifically, our Youth Council is energized to lead their peers with superb leadership via Fall Retreats, CCYM Retreats, and our novel gem called "LEAD." This is a program where our youth across the conference are immersed into the City of Roanoke through an experiential model of self-discovery, spiritual disciplines, worship, and community service. The program is life changing because our youth are led to discover their strengths and to lead with confidence, power, and renewed vitality; thus, always pointing them to the call of Christ.

The Young Adult Council continues to lead a number of churches in VocationCARE by helping those churches find sacred space, unearthing their strength and power as a church. We hope the arm of this ministry will continue and become revival for participating churches. This year our Young Adult Council is challenging other young adults across the Conference to join them in an overseas mission trip. During the day, they will serve an AIDS camp and two orphanages; during the evenings, they will be devoted to the practices of VocationCARE.

Moving across the Virginia landscape, we are fortunate to have Casey Torrence to lead All God's Children Camp for another year. We were blessed to have 130 campers and 150 adult mentors and volunteers. We send a hearty thanks to all of the churches that have partnered with us to make this a success. Please keep us in your prayers as we are in the planning stages for this year's camp. The dates are as follows:

- Aug. 5-10 – Camp Highroad in Middleburg
- Aug. 5-10 – Camp Occohannock on the Bay in Belle Haven
- Aug. 12-17 – Westview on the James in Goochland

#### *Older Adult Council*

Nineteen people from Virginia took part in the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Older Adults' Festival of Wisdom and Grace held at Lake Junaluska, N.C., Aug. 8-11, 2011. In April, the Older Adult Council offered its own overnight retreat for those who wanted to "prime their pump" of creativity and to network for sharing and fellowship with older adults from across the conference. With the theme of "ReFirement: Fostering a Creative Spark," the retreat focused on enriching the lives of older adults and enhancing the ministries of the church. A variety of workshop sessions including watercolor and acrylic painting, music, liturgical movement, and knitting/crocheting were offered. Other activities of the council included development of worship materials for the 2012 Older Adult Recognition Sunday based upon the theme of "Forever Green" and continued assistance to start and expand Older Adult Ministries in our local churches.

*The Rev. Beth Christian, Chair*

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- The Board of Discipleship recommends that each church in the Virginia Conference observe a Christian Education Sunday in the fall of 2012, and promote and receive a Christian Education offering (50 percent of which will remain in the district for teaching ministries, while the other 50 percent will support teaching ministries through the conference).

- The Board of Discipleship continues to recommend and endorse Gregory B. West as a General Evangelist according to the standards set by the General Board of Discipleship.

### **VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS INC.**

In today's high-tech world, a simple and powerful reminder is that church marketing is evangelism. It reminds me of the first chapter of Meredith Gould's *The Word Made Fresh: Communicating Church and Faith Today*, which argues that church communications is ministry. What we do is not just some business skill for the church. The work communicators do is not mere work. It is a vital ministry of the church, seeking and saving the lost. We marketers and communicators, designers and editors, volunteers and assistants – we are evangelists.

With this background, and recent changes in our conference structure, your Board of Communications spent time in the fall revising our mission statement and the areas of focus for our work. Our new mission statement is "The mission of Virginia United Methodist Communications Inc. is to assist faith communities in communications and related technologies, empowering their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ."

In a time when communications tools are changing at break-neck speed it is often hard to keep up. If we are going to share the gospel of Jesus Christ we need to embrace all the options available to us. The great thing about these different modes of communication is that many of the resources are free or at low cost and allow faith communities of all sizes to reach their communities and around the world. As we seek to support faith communities in utilizing this type of evangelism they will form new relationships with people in their communities, and invite them into faith and fellowship.

Our work on behalf of the conference provides communication resources in all forms. In print, we produce *The Virginia United Methodist Advocate* monthly newsmagazine with information from across the conference and across our denomination, as well as a weekly *Sunday Advocate* for use in church bulletins, and *Neighbors*, a mass-mail invitation piece. In electronic communications we maintain the conference website, issue the weekly *e-Advocate* newsletter, manage multiple e-mail groups, offer the *Advocate* in an online format, and maintain a Facebook and Twitter presence. We also provide video production for work with our conference boards and agencies.

In October, Communications Department videographer Pheath Ram received two Certificates of Merit for "All Things New" videos from the United Methodist Association of Communicators, a denomination-wide professional organization.

Living into the vision of The United Methodist Church "to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World," we would like to help all of the faith communities of the Virginia Conference. When it comes to communications you have to be intentional about what you say and how often you say it. We would challenge every faith community to utilize a Communications Audit found on United Methodist Communications' website at <[www.umcom.org](http://www.umcom.org)> where you will find a variety of other communication/evangelism tools to assist each faith community.

We look forward to partnering with all the work areas of the Virginia Conference as we seek to "Change the World" by sharing the good news.

*The Rev. Bill McClung, President*

### **THE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

The Board of Global Ministries is composed of clergy and laity who are passionate about participating in God's mission and empowering the church to do so creatively and joyfully.

In the last year, our Board has examined our role in helping congregations implement their Vital Congregation goals. We have focused on the question: how can we support and empower local churches to become vibrant mission stations? As you read these reports, you will notice some of the responses to this question. We have made some changes, and we all know that change is not always easy for the church. We held our fall meeting at Blackstone in conjunction with the Board of Church & Society, with the intention of working more closely and making a stronger connection with the justice aspect of God's mission.

We are working on changes to the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) program, our volunteer mission-sending mechanism. The School of Christian Mission has

been transformed into a Mission Encounter. We continue to develop the Mission Mentor program that was launched last year, and we believe this is an excellent resource for churches which are seeking to grow in their understanding and living out of God's mission. God is at work doing amazing things in the world and we are blessed and humbled to be a part of it!

*The Rev. Kristin M. Holbrook, President*

#### **MISSION INTERPRETATION TEAM**

The Mission Interpretation Team is tasked with interpreting the mission outreach of The United Methodist Church to local congregations and districts. Two major tools that accomplish this are Mission Encounter 2012 – formerly called the School of Christian Mission – and Voices of Youth (VOY). Our team consists of elected clergy and laity as well as those persons who serve as district Mission Coordinators and United Methodist Women Education and Interpretation Coordinators.

Mission Mentors, trained and commissioned at 2011 Annual Conference, are additional interpreters of mission available upon request.

At our July meeting a lively discussion resulted in the formation of a task force that included young adults, men and women to look in depth at the School of Christian Mission. We are excited about Mission Encounter 2012, with a new format of workshops, UVMIM training, and a "Poverty Simulation" as well as in-depth mission studies about "Haiti's Hopes and Challenges," "Immigration in the Bible" and "Poverty." Mission Encounter 2012 is a cooperative school offered by the Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Women (UMW) to help us understand God's work in our world and our involvement as United Methodists. The Mission Encounter is scheduled for July 27-29 and July 30- Aug. 2 at the Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center. Separate "mission trip" sessions are offered for youth and children. Hands-on mission projects help them understand and grow in awareness of local, national and global work done in Christ's name by United Methodists. The dean for Mission Encounter 2012 is Louise Miller and the assistant dean is Donna Mott.

"Voices of Youth: Awakening the United Methodist Church to Mission" is designed to connect high school youth with those in need through music and mission. Voices of Youth 2012 team will be working on disaster relief in Joplin, Mo., from June 27-July 30. Contact Jennifer Dixon at <coordinator@voyva.org> or Chad Hrbek at <teamleader@voyva.org> for more information.

*The Rev. Judy Fender, Chair*

#### **MISSION RELATIONSHIP TEAM**

The Mission Relationship Team of the Board of Global Ministries is tasked with educating and encouraging local congregations to find ways to be active partners in the mission programs offered throughout Virginia, the United States and around the world. Information and training regarding mission opportunities, both nationally and internationally, is provided to leaders, individuals and teams through the conference UVMIM coordinator, Julie Warren.

Congregations are encouraged to offer "second mile" giving, beyond our apportioned giving, by supporting projects and the missionaries serving God through The United Methodist Church in mission fields far and near. Under the umbrella of the conference Board of Global Ministries, the Mission Relationship Team prayerfully discerns and compiles the Advance projects that are listed in the Mission Opportunities booklet, which is annually published in the August issue of the Virginia Advocate magazine. The booklet includes projects in Virginia, around the country, international, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and UVMIM information and tools, Virginia Conference Initiatives of Hope, and our missionaries. This booklet also provides tools for developing and strengthening covenant relationships. Encouraging congregations to become involved in these transformational relationships is an exciting element of our work. The Mission Opportunities booklet is an educational tool for laity and clergy alike. It is our hope that you will each acquaint yourselves and your congregations with the Advance Specials.

*Erin McKenney and the Rev. Rebecca Rumburg, Co-Chairs*

#### **COMMITTEE ON MISSION PERSONNEL**

The conference Committee on Mission Personnel (CCMP) is working on ways to fulfill the following: 1) Recruitment of missionary candidates; 2) Promoting "covenant relationships" between congregations and United Methodist missionaries, with the goal that every congregation will someday have at least one covenant relationship with a missionary; and 3) Work with other conference entities to promote education of young people regarding United Methodist mission and service.

Since June, 2011, we have scheduled visits to supporting churches for the following Virginia sponsored missionaries: Clara Biswas, missionary serving in Cambodia; Jeremias Franca, missionary serving in Mozambique; and John Elmore, missionary serving in Chile. We also provided assistance in scheduling visits of a non-Virginia sponsored missionary to their supporting churches in Virginia.

We encourage all congregations, as well as individuals and groups, in the Virginia Conference to help support a missionary. To learn more about becoming a covenant partner with a missionary, e-mail the Mission office at <mission@vaumc.org> or call 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 144. To schedule a visit from a missionary, contact Dale Childrey at <dchildrey@comcast.net> or (804) 275-7560.

*The Rev. Joanne Maughlin, Chair*

#### **HEALTH AND RELIEF TEAM**

The Health and Relief Team has been busy working on meeting the 2011-2012 goals for the Virginia Conference. United Methodist social agencies and various Advance Specials in the Virginia Conference were contacted and asked to complete a questionnaire on health concerns. An analysis of this data was completed to assist the team with establishing a goal for 2012-2013. Our goal is: to educate, support and provide resources on child neglect/abuse, substance abuse and mental health for the local church and individuals.

Resources available include: UMFS (United Methodist Family Services), which provides treatment for children and youth who are victims of trauma, abuse and/or neglect. UMFS also offers school-based services for students with behavioral and emotional challenges and students with Asperger's Syndrome. Virginia United Methodist Homes provides Life Care programs and dementia care services. Heart Havens provides services for developmentally challenged individuals. Wesley Housing Development Corp. provides housing for low- and moderate-income families, seniors and adults, including those with chronic diseases or disabilities. The Faith Community Nursing Ministry provides resources to the local church through parish nurses. The Virginia Interfaith Committee on Mental Health Ministries offers resources for families dealing with individuals diagnosed with mental illness.

This committee continues to be involved in direct ministries to human need and to work with seven ministries and conference-related agencies.

*The Rev. Donna Mott, Chair*

#### **DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM**

The Virginia Conference Disaster Response Team (CRDT) is actively engaged in providing disaster response ministries throughout the conference. During the last conference year, members of the team, as well as our Early Response Teams responded repeatedly to the tornado outbreaks that affected many of the districts within our conference, as well as providing connectional support to our neighbors in the Holston and North Carolina conferences. In addition, we responded to the destruction left behind from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee and have just recently conducted two case management classes in the counties affected by the Mineral-centered earthquake.

Conference Early Response Teams (ERT) have received numerous accolades for their relief and response efforts this year and are consistently looked to being "first-out" by the Virginia VOAD leadership and by Virginia Emergency Management. The CDRT and ERT have volunteered thousands of hours in support of the districts and the communities impacted by the devastating storms that crossed our state last year.

Training continues to be at the forefront of our efforts. This year, through the dedication of our conference ERT coordinator and our three UMCOR-certified ERT trainers we have increased the number of UMCOR credentialed ERT responders to 300. We also included another Spiritual and Emotional Care Team training in our efforts to broaden the scope of our response capability. We are dedicated UMCOR partners and UMCOR has consistently supported all of our requests for training, education and financial assistance.

Because of the efforts of our equipment coordinator, our tools and disaster response equipment have been overhauled and updated. We are currently working on the rehabilitation of our 50-foot tractor-trailer shower unit that has been deployed outside of the conference for the last five years. We also added a dedicated ERT trailer to our inventory and thanks to a gift from our national VOAD partners we expect to add a 24-foot shower trailer by mid-year.

Disaster Response Team members travelled across the conference and across the country providing basic disaster training and education both in the local church setting and within several of the districts. Team members have been sought out for their expertise to teach in other conferences and on several occasions by UMCOR as well. The conference has a very dedicated and knowledgeable group of volunteers leading its disaster mission!

None of our efforts or capabilities would be possible without the hard work and dedication of the conference volunteers who make up the team, or members of our Virginia Conference churches who donate their time, talents and financial gifts to this important mission and ministry. On behalf of the entire team, I want to thank the Virginia Conference for your continued support.

*The Rev. Bob Pihlcrantz, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator*

## HEART HAVENS

### *Expansion:*

- Lynchburg2 began construction with a weekend building blitz in October with more than 150 individuals participating with support from district churches. This is a five-bed home across the street from the first home. The house was projected to open in May.
- Discussions continue with Charlottesville District around the possibility of a home in that area. The district is forming a committee.
- Preliminary planning has been done for site in Blackstone. but deed has not been transferred yet.

### *Other:*

- 100 percent participation in Annual Fund by our board of directors.
- Increased awareness of Heart Havens:
  - More than doubled number of churches reached during Heart Havens month;
  - Made presentations at more than 20 United Methodist Men's and United Methodist Women's meetings, district programs and community organizations;
  - Promotions and ads in print, radio and TV.
- Completed a three-year Strategic Plan with input from staff, board and stakeholders; implementation time line in place.
- Multiple United Methodist Men's groups in several districts held events;
- Our Rappahannock home was updated with new hardwood flooring, furniture, painting and a new handicap ramp built by United Methodist Men.
- Received \$33,000 in grants for home maintenance, furnishings and vehicles.
- Applied for Commonwealth Department of Rail and Public Transportation grant to replace two vans.
- Updated policy manual.
- Moved into new office (812 Moorefield Park Dr., Suite 301, Richmond, VA 23236).

### *Goals:*

- Update our employee handbook;
- Continued exploration of opportunities for expansion;
- Set-up planned giving with existing families;
- Centralize volunteer efforts and donations.

*Jennifer Boyden-Barrett, Executive Director*

## UNITED METHODIST FAMILY SERVICES

Our mission is "Touch a life. Create a Future." UMFS provided services in 2011 to more than 9,000 children and families throughout Virginia, with Regional Centers in Richmond, Northern Virginia, Tidewater, Fredericksburg, and South Hill, Intensive Treatment Centers in Richmond and Centreville, and offices in Farmville, Lynchburg, Charlottesville, Roanoke, Tazewell and Loudon counties. Our network of services include Family CARE Services, Treatment Foster Care, Adoption Services which includes Adoptive Family Preservation, Intensive Treatment Services, and School-Based Services, Project LIFE and Guardian Place.

Through our new chaplain, Joshua Andrzejewski, we will strengthen intergenerational spiritual life and pastoral care on our Richmond campus with our youth residents and senior residents at Guardian Place, and our connection with congregations and church leadership.

We are creating an agency-wide volunteer program. This will be led by Angie Williams, who has 17 years experience in youth and young adult ministries in the Virginia Conference.

Continuing a partnership with Commonwealth Autism Services (CAS), UMFS and Charterhouse School launched a new program this year called "Courage to Succeed," which is a program that provides support services to young adults with Asperger's Syndrome to allow them to attend J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.

At UMFS, we reaffirm our relationship with the Virginia Annual Conference and ask for the continuing opportunity to collect the UMFS offering. We also value our place in our connection with the church and feel privileged to be a part of the ministry team.

*The Rev. John Brenneke, Chair, UMFS Board, and Greg Peters, Chief Executive Officer*

## VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST HOMES, INC.

The mission of Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. (VUMH) is to provide facilities, services and programs to enhance the quality of life for older adults. These words carry great meaning and represent a lifelong commitment to the thousands of individuals who have called one of the seven VUMH communities home in the past 64 years.

Since the founding of VUMH in 1947, these words have grown to represent the lifeblood of the organization. VUMH has grown from two simple homes for older United Methodists to six continuing care retirement communities and one assisted living community, which touch all parts of the Virginia Conference while serving individuals of many faiths.

Between June 1, 2011 and Jan. 31, 2012, nearly 200 new residents have moved into one of the VUMH communities. VUMH strives to continuously meet the expectations of current and future needs of residents. To that end, renovations of the VUMH communities continue; however, none of the renovation work would be worth doing without the commitment and dedication of the many residents, donors, volunteers and staff members who live the VUMH mission every day.

At the heart of the VUMH mission are the staff members and volunteers who work tirelessly to improve the quality services already in place, and strive to develop new programs and services. In the spring, VUMH celebrated a significant milestone with one of its many caring employees as Burnice Crawford, a housekeeping employee at The Hermitage in Richmond, celebrated her 50th anniversary as an employee.

The many wonderful donors who support the Samaritan Program continue to give from their hearts. This is a positive sign as benevolent care needs continue to grow for the VUMH communities. A special thank you goes to our donors who make it possible for VUMH to provide facilities, services and programs to elders who have outlived their own personal financial resources.

*Christopher P. Henderson, President and CEO*

## WESLEY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Wesley Housing Development Corp. seeks to develop, own, operate, preserve and maintain housing and sustain quality Northern Virginia communities for low- and moderate-income families, seniors and individuals, including those with chronic diseases or disabilities.

Since 1974, we have developed 25 communities in six Northern Virginia locales to provide

more than 20,000 residents with affordable, stable, quality housing. We currently manage 19 properties (approximately 2,200 residents, most of whom would be homeless otherwise) plus three Community Resource Centers and four special needs Resident Services Centers.

*Current Real Estate Activities and Pipeline Projects:*

- Colonial Village (Courthouse/Arlington): Renovation of the 162-unit community is in progress with residents moving into newly completed apartments. The project creates 17 new ADA compliant units and adds three-bedroom units to offer family-friendly apartments. All units will have new windows, full replacement of kitchens and baths, and energy saving upgrades. Completion expected this summer.
- Pierce Queen Apartments (Arlington): In partnership with Arlington County, progress is being made to redevelop the 50-unit garden-style community to expand the number of total units as well as provide committed affordable housing to create a mixed-income environment. Pierce Queen is located in the Fort Myer Heights North area, where gentrification threatens affordability.
- William Watters Apartments (Arlington): Renovation of the 21-unit apartment community's heating system was completed in November, 2011.
- Route One, Fairfax County: Wesley Housing is seeking funding to purchase and renovate an apartment community that would add 183 units of affordable housing along Route One in South Fairfax County.

*Resident Services/Special Projects:*

- Wesley Housing's educational programs and supportive services assisted residents and neighbors at our three Community Resource Centers (CRCs) while social/recreational activities, needs counseling, and linkage to community resources served residents at our four special needs Resident Services Centers (RSCs).
- The Whitefield Commons Community Resource Center reopened this year and launched the new Housing Stability Initiative. The Center is serving more than 100 families with adult and child programming such as job search assistance, sewing class, and homework help.
- Wesley Housing collected school supply items (from pencils and glue sticks to backpacks) to children in our communities and 230 students in grades pre-K through 5 at Plummer Elementary School.
- Our Adopt-A-Family Program partnered with churches, businesses, and individuals to offer holiday help for 188 of our neediest residents in 62 households, an increase of 84 percent over the number of residents served in 2010. Holiday celebrations (including gifts) were provided for children at our Community Resource Centers.

*Shelley S. Murphy, President/CEO*

## **INITIATIVES OF HOPE**

Initiatives of Hope (IOH) is planting seeds of hope with the people of the Igreja Metodista em Brasil and the Methodist Church of Mozambique. This year we are planning to expand our partnerships to include the Methodist Church in Cambodia.

*Brazil:* Our partnership with the Methodist Church in Brazil was enhanced in 2011 when a team of children from the Shade and Fresh Water program in Brazil traveled to Virginia to be "missionaries" to our conference. The children gave musical presentations at churches on the Alexandria, Arlington, Harrisonburg and Roanoke districts, Camp Overlook and at the 2011 Annual Conference session, where they were a big hit. Those who participated in the international consultation in Sao Paulo in April, 2011, are involved in planning and orientation for the expansion of the Shade and Fresh Water model to other locations where there are at-risk children in need of spiritual, intellectual and physical care. The director of the program in Brazil has traveled to Mozambique to provide information to the United Methodist Church of Mozambique and to assess the needs as well as evaluate the cultural adaptations that might need to be made to the program. Hopefully several Brazilian Shade and Fresh Water leaders will travel to Mozambique this year to train volunteers in the implementation of the program and a pilot program can be started by early 2013. (The Methodist Church in Honduras is also making plans to implement a pilot program in that country.) The Virginia Conference will

continue to partner with these churches to address the needs of children in their communities through Shade and Fresh Water or similar programs run by volunteers from local churches.

Two young adults from Brazil joined Virginia Conference young adults for the Sojourn to Sacredness sponsored by conference Caretakers of God's Creation last summer. Combined with the visit of a young adult team from Virginia to Curitiba, this experience laid the groundwork for additional interaction and mission among young adults in both countries.

An average of six to eight UMWIM teams travel to Brazil from Virginia each year. Our plan is to increase the number of teams and to encourage more teams from Brazil to come to Virginia for mission opportunities and relationship building in the months to come.

We are pleased that Shenandoah University School of Nursing will be sending a medical team to the Amazon again this year. We hope that will become an annual event for them and that we will have one or two additional medical teams in 2013.

*Mozambique:* The mission partnership of our Virginia Conference with the Mozambique United Methodist Church continues to strengthen, and be a blessing all around. The Annual Conference offering to the northern and southern Mozambique Conferences is used to strengthen their various ministries including providing Sunday school and theological education for church leaders. This leadership development work is done in an "extension" context with centers being established in Maputo and Inhambane, where tutors are transported and trained, materials translated, teaching aids purchased. Seminars for training Sunday school teachers were also held on three districts of the southern conference.

In June, 2011, teams from Annandale UMC and from Courthouse Community and St. Andrew's UMCs, worked at the Cambine compound and at the Tinga-Tinga School in Bungane in areas of repair, leadership development, teaching, medical assistance, delivering supplies and most importantly – relating to brothers and sisters in Christ. There are five teams preparing to go to Mozambique in 2012: a medical symposium team and Global Citizenship Project team from Shenandoah University, a construction team from Annandale UMC, a conference UMW leadership team, a women's clergy team and a local church team to Bungane. Additionally, initial preparations for 2013 teams have begun.

We invite churches, clusters of churches, and districts to consider the possibility of sending a team to Mozambique or Brazil: a unique experience of sharing Jesus, sharing culture, and partnering with faithful brothers and sisters who are tireless in their living out of the gospel.

*The Rev. Judy Worthington, Chair; The Rev. Jay M. Hanke, Mozambique Initiative; and Dot Ivey, Brazil Initiative*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Relationship Agreements as presented to the Health and Relief Team between the Virginia Conference and Heart Havens, Inc.; United Methodist Family Services of Virginia; Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.; Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation; and Wesley Housing Development Corporation, be continued.

2. That the three following special offerings be designated: February, Heart Havens month; December, United Methodist Family Services; and May 13-June 17, Virginia United Methodist Homes Samaritan Fund.

## **Advance Specials 2012-2013**

### **MISSIONARIES**

*Adding: Esther Gitobu, Cambodia, Advance #13959Z*

### **INTERNATIONAL**

Cambodia: Street Children Ministry, Advance #14921A  
Latin America: Community-Based Wholistic Health, Advance #3020620  
Ghana: Ghana Water Projects, Advance #3020588  
Macedonia: Macedonia in Mission Together, Advance #00220A  
Chile: Family Center, Advance #14800A  
Colombia: Church Buildings for the Colombian Methodist Church, Advance #3020764  
Brazil: Ministry with Children, Shade and Fresh Water Project, Advance #11580A



Russia: Russia Mission Initiative, Russia, Belarus, Advance #11510A  
 Russia: Russia Mission Initiative, Ukraine, Moldova, Advance #14053A  
 Uganda: The Humble Place Program, Advance #14191A  
 Sierra Leone: Child Rescue Program, Advance #14377A  
 Cuba: Methodist Christian Home, Havana, Advance #11635A  
 Congo: Diengenga Trade School, Scholarships, Advance #15106B  
 Sudan: Sudan Emergency, Advance #184385  
 Africa: Aviation, Advance #3019626  
 Global: Children, Poverty, and Violence, Advance #14680A  
 Global: Anti-Human Trafficking, Advance #333615  
 Global: The Medicine Box, Advance #982630  
 Zimbabwe: AIDS Orphans Trust, Advance #982842  
 Global: Sustainable Agriculture, Advance #982188  
 Haiti: Solar Oven Project, Advance #418812  
 Guatemala: Highland Support Project, Advance #15022A  
 Africa: ZOE (Orphans in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya) Advance #982023  
 Mexico: Give Ye Them To Eat, Advance #07629A  
 Mozambique: Evangelization and Church Expansion Ministry, Advance #12580A  
 Israel: Bethlehem Bible College, Advance #12017A

#### **NATIONAL**

North Carolina: Robeson County Church and Community Center, Advance #791742  
 District of Columbia: Christ House, Advance #381215  
 Kentucky: Red Bird Mission, Inc., Beverly, Advance #773726  
 Tennessee: Jubilee Project, Inc., Sneedville, Advance #781350  
 Florida: Cornerstone Family Ministries, Advance #751202  
 North Carolina: Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville, Advance #731372  
 Kentucky: Henderson Settlement, Frakes, Advance #773365  
 National Challenge Fund for Hispanic/Latino Ministries, Advance #982620  
 South Dakota: Tree of Life Ministry, Advance #123615  
 Alaska: Parish Partners, Alaska Missionary Conference, Advance #931027  
 Virginia: Justice for Our Neighbors Immigration Ministry, Advance #901285  
 USA: Volunteers in Mission, Southeastern Jurisdiction, Advance #901875  
 USA: Society of St. Andrew, Advance #801600  
 USA: Response and Recovery to Natural Disaster, Advance #901670  
 USA: Farming for Churches, Advance #3021060

#### **VIRGINIA**

##### *New Advances:*

Jackson Street UMC Community Revitalization Ministry, #5028  
 Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of Virginia, #5029

Henry Fork Service Center, #5008  
 United Methodist Community Outreach Program of Roanoke, #5004  
 Virginia Conference Disaster Response and Recovery, #5037  
 Caretakers of God's Creation, #5016  
 Agape Christian Children's Community Center, Inc, #5020  
 GRACE Ministries of The United Methodist Church, #5035  
 ESL and Immigrant Ministries Childcare Support, #5036  
 United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond, #5001  
 Teens Opposing Poverty, Inc. (TOPS), #5010  
 Crossroads College Ministry, #5030  
 Summer Project Youth (SPY), #5018  
 Embrace Richmond, #5039  
 Heart Havens, #6442  
 Park View Community Mission, #5019

Wesley Community Center, #5025  
 Helping Hands Mission Camp, #5026  
 Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church, Advance #803001  
 Project Crossroads, Inc., Marian, Advance #781380  
 Just Neighbors Ministry, Advance #803002  
 Pathways Virginia Advance #803405

#### **CHAPLAIN SERVICE PRISON MINISTRY OF VIRGINIA, INC.**

A year ago I made the Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia, Inc., report to the Virginia Annual and introduced a new DVD about the prison ministry in Virginia. The DVD depicts the ministry to 32,000 adult prisoners, 2,500 of whom are women, and 700 young men and 50 young women who are incarcerated in 31 state prisons and three juvenile correctional centers. The DVD includes comments from Bishop Charlene Kammerer, Dr. John Upton of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell. After the DVD was shown, I asked the delegates to pray for the Chaplains, for those whom they serve, and for the victims of their crimes.

After I spoke, a motion was made to reconsider the reduced grant for 2012. It passed overwhelmingly. On Sunday, Bishop Whitaker asked for CFA's response to the motion referring a request for additional funding for the Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia. Jeff Davis stated that a task force had been formed within CFA to gather complete financial information from the Chaplain Service Prison Ministry, and that CFA will work within the current budget to accommodate the Annual Conference's request. The Rev. Robert Casey moved to increase the 2012 funding for the Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia to \$149,000 using conference reserves, but Casey's motion was not approved.

This was when a miracle happened. The Rev. Greg West, chaplain at Virginia Wesleyan College, asked the bishop if there could be a special love offering for Chaplain Service. Bishop Whitaker approved that request, and hundreds of people came to the altar and presented gifts for Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia, Inc. The amount collected on that day was \$9,396.93. Praise God! Hallelujah! Additional money was designated for Chaplain Service, and the total amount collected was \$10,521.93!

As a follow-up to last year's amazing miracle offering (and to help make up for the reduced 2012 grant), I am issuing a special challenge: Would you please add \$25 a month (i.e. \$300 a year) to your church's budget for 2012? If so, your church will be acknowledged as one of Chaplain Service's "300 Club" churches. For \$300 a year your church will help provide a prison ministry that ministers to the women, youth and men who are in state prisons across Virginia. Funds may be sent monthly, quarterly or annually to: Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia, Inc.; 2317 Westwood Ave., Room 103-A; Richmond, VA 23230.

For more information, visit our website at <[www.chaplainservice.org](http://www.chaplainservice.org)>, or contact me at (804) 358-7650 or by e-mail at <[chapservva@aol.com](mailto:chapservva@aol.com)>.

*The Rev. Cecil E. McFarland, President*

#### **INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL MINISTRIES**

This October, ICM-Industrial & Commercial Ministries (ICM) will celebrate its 40th anniversary. Thousands of working men and women have been touched with the love of God by ICM chaplains. ICM chaplains are a direct extension of the local church's outreach mission, serving at their assigned workplace right within their own communities. These men and women, clergy and laity, are "a caring presence" to working folks who have a multitude of personal problems. ICM chaplains listen, do not judge and are there to offer referral sources.

Every ICM chaplain, all volunteers, completes a two-day training seminar covering subjects that will enable them to deal with the problems that they may encounter... grief, finances, theology, stress, substance abuse and others. Our goal is not to be experts, but rather help working folks find the resources that are available to them that will help solve their problems.

So often God is left at the church. ICM chaplains share God's love each week by being with working people, church and unchurched, and letting them know that God does love and care



about them. Someone said, “being a ICM chaplain is a lot like what Jesus did. He “hung out” with ordinary people in the workplace.”

We need your help to expand and to grow our local ICM chapters. How can you help? Pray for ICM and our faithful chaplains; pray about becoming a ICM chaplain; consider supporting ICM financially, as an individual and as a church; help to establish a chapter in your area.

Want to know more? Visit <[www.America.org](http://www.America.org)>, call (540) 432-1919 or e-mail <[icmmmin@aol.com](mailto:icmmmin@aol.com)>.

*Wayne Wright, Executive Director*

### **THE VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION**

John Wesley was among the first to organize financial cooperatives among the faithful in the Methodist movement and it is in the spirit of Wesley that in 1952 the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union was established by a group of clergy who pooled their financial resources to help each other. As we celebrate 60 years of service in 2012, our membership has grown to include United Methodist churches, church members, clergy, organizations, agencies and institutions within the Virginia Conference.

We are a full-service financial institution and we operate solely to serve the financial needs of our member owners. Our all volunteer board of directors is comprised of a cross section of lay and clergy. We help our members by providing quality financial products and services, including savings and checking accounts, loans, Visa credit cards, online services and resources to assist our members with personal financial management. We sponsor scholarships for college bound students and have partnered with several conference churches to establish Jubilee Assistance Funds; a program that assists churches with providing their needy members short term help during a financial crisis and financial management tools to guide them toward long term financial stability.

Our church loan program helps conference churches with the refinance of current loans, loans for parsonages, renovations, and vans and buses. We also offer project loans (up to \$50,000 unsecured) and credit cards for church business.

Our goal is to be the premier financial institution and primary resource for encouraging sound stewardship principles and helping Virginia United Methodist churches, individuals and institutions “to earn all they can and save all they can so they can give all they can” as servants of Christ in the world.

*M. William Jones IV, Chair*

### **THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW**

Even with the continued weak economic conditions throughout the country, the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) was faced with some additional challenges in 2011. These challenges had to be overcome in order to meet our goals.

This past year started out with some very poor weather that ultimately effected crop availability throughout much of the country. Severe flooding, too much rain, violent storms and tornadoes were common in the early months of the year. This kept farmers out of their fields at critical times and prevented other crop related work resulting in significantly reduced harvests – and consequently significantly reduced crops available for gleaning.

Most organizations would have given up and just accepted that it was going to be a bad year. Not SoSA. We understood that if we let down, we were really letting down America’s hungry people. In the second half of the year SoSA made the most of existing opportunities and created new opportunities to come roaring back. With renewed gleaning efforts and bringing new farmers on-board SoSA was able to regain that lost ground to save and distribute 27 million pounds of food. All of it was fruits and vegetables that the poor in our country desperately need and to which they have little or no access. For many of the poor in America, SoSA is their only source of fresh produce. At a time when the number of hungry in the U.S. has grown significantly, the need for this ministry has never been greater.

The last 12 months have been marked by huge successes and challenges met:

- All three programs, the Potato and Produce Project, the Gleaning Network, and Harvest of

Hope, experienced strong performance in 2011;

- SoSA saved and distributed 27 million pounds of fresh produce, nearly equaling one of our best years on record. All of this food would have otherwise gone to waste!;
- The Potato Project increased distribution by more than 14 percent;
- More than 30,700 volunteers put their faith into action by volunteering in SoSA’s Gleaning Network;

• More than 4,500 separate gleaning events were conducted, an increase of more than 20 percent;

- Food was distributed nationwide including in every county in the Virginia Conference;
- The ministry touched the lives of millions of people all across the country;
- Hundreds of churches across the country joined in SoSA’s ministry for the very first time;
- SoSA’s influence has played a key role in national associations such as the Alliance to End Hunger, National Anti-Hunger Organizations, the Congressional Hunger Center and others. SoSA’s voice is now heard in national hunger policy discussions;
- SoSA’s new Harvest of Hope event for college students as an “Alternative Spring Break” more than doubled;

- SoSA was recognized by the First Lady of Virginia in her “Opportunity Hall of Fame”;
- More than 81 million servings of fresh at a cost of about two cents a serving!

SoSA’s Board of Directors adopted a new Strategic Plan that calls for SoSA to increase its food distribution by an additional 20 million pounds over the next three years and then be able to sustain that new level of program activity. This is a huge example of stepping out in faith and represents the most important decision that SoSA has made since its founding.

We are called to love “in deed and in truth” and that has been SoSA’s ministry for 32 years. That ministry happens because many others take that calling to heart. Volunteers, churches, individuals, farmers, feeding agencies, transporters, board members, staff, and financial partners, all comprise a thriving network to feed the hungry in our land. The leadership demonstrated by the Virginia Conference continues to be a blessing to this ministry and to all those in need of food, for the body and the Spirit.

*Steven M. Waldmann, Executive Director*

### **THE VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST ASSEMBLY CENTER**

For more than 115 years the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) has accommodated students and guests from throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond. The facility was founded in 1892 as Blackstone Female Institute; when the college closed its doors in 1955, the Methodist Church took on the responsibility of the property’s maintenance. At the 1972 Virginia Annual Conference it was decided that a comprehensive plan was to be developed for turning the property into a viable conference center. It was through the tireless efforts of the United Methodist Women that necessary funds were raised to turn the property into VUMAC.

The center takes great pride in its service to the conference with participation from district youth retreats, the Cabinet, Minister’s Convocation, Lay Servants Academy, School of Christian Mission, Camp Rainbow, Clergy Spouse’s Retreat and Board of Ordained Ministry. It is United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men that continue to be the backbone of use and support for Blackstone. In addition to their specialized meetings, the United Methodist Women’s Annual Meeting and the United Methodist Men’s Spiritual Retreat fill Blackstone with great Christ-centered activity.

In 2011, Blackstone hosted 12,314 overnight guests. It employed 11 full-time employees and 22 part-time employees.

At the close of the approved emergency conference-wide fund raising appeal to handle VUMAC debt totaling \$413,000 as approved by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) and District Superintendents, VUMAC raised \$138,988. This money was immediately used to lower the debt responsibility. The remaining debt was handled through a low-interest loan with Citizens Bank & Trust Co. for \$320,730.67.

On March 7, 2011, the conference Trustees agreed to convey the property deed of VUMAC

from the conference to the facility's Board of Directors. The decision of the Trustees title was made in order that VUMAC have every opportunity to move forward with the work at hand in making the facility financially stable and eminently useful in service to God's great work. VUMAC pledged to the Trustees to work diligently to preserve the good name of Methodists and to continue to build a better center for all to use and enjoy. The deed was recorded in Nottoway County on April 11, 2011.

The Board of Directors formed a search committee for an Executive Director to continue to lead the Assembly Center into the future. Their search resulted in the hire of Samuel A. McCracken as its new executive director, effective July 1, 2011. McCracken came from DeFoggi Development and Construction Co. in Richmond, where he served as senior vice president. He has a strong background in administration and management, marketing strategy, and a comprehensive understanding of facility maintenance and construction.

VUMAC added three Board members in 2011, Jim Bergdoll, Catherine Bolton and William DuBois.

On June 11, 2011, VUMAC hosted a Founder's Day special event entitled "Faith of Our Founding Fathers." Gov. Robert F. McDonnell delivered the keynote address and talked about the Founding Fathers as people of faith. The event also included appearances by George Washington and Patrick Henry, portrayed by re-enactors Kevin Grantz and Michael Wells, respectively. Youth from Crenshaw UMC saluted our Founding Fathers in song.

In October, the Board voted to do business as Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center, noting that the center will be governed by the legal name the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center. The decision for this change in name was based on the need to cast its net for attendance to a wider market. In making the decision, the board further noted that other Christian conference and retreat centers seldom brand themselves with a denomination.

In December, Blackstone celebrated Christmas with *Evening at Blackstone*. Amid garlands, decorated trees and a holiday feast, guests were once again delighted with this 16-year Blackstone tradition. Beginning with the captivating performance Star of Wonder by the youth from Crenshaw UMC and followed by period music from Williamsburg performer Dean Shostak, guests were filled with holiday spirit.

Last, but far from least, it was with a generous gift given in memory of Nell Ruth Clay Blanton by her son, Reuben L. Blanton Jr.; son-in-law, the Rev. Gene Tatum and daughter, Mary Nell Tatum. that refurbishment work began in December. Through their generosity the first floor parlor (room 113) will be renovated in honor of Nell Ruth Clay Blanton.

*The Rev. Jim Tongue, Chair of the Board*

## REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE STATISTICIAN

	Total 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 & Prior Year Net Corrections	Withdrawn from Professing Membership	Removed by Death	Total Professing Members at End of Year	Net Change in Membership	Percent Change	Average Weekly Attendance	Number of Persons Baptized
Alexandria	39,101	740	6	72	392	127	247	39,153	52	0.1%	11,030	481
Arlington	26,549	566	130	132	116	79	141	27,041	492	1.9%	10,239	424
Charlottesville	13,426	144	78	29	12	46	211	13,408	(18)	-0.1%	4,649	109
Danville	12,052	124	7	54	114	18	211	11,894	(158)	-1.3%	4,457	89
Eastern Shore	7,238	82	39	25	37	11	134	7,202	(36)	-0.5%	2,629	83
Elizabeth River	32,682	494	(30)	58	169	184	385	32,466	(216)	-0.7%	10,142	409
Farmville	13,023	151	24	44	108	4	208	12,922	(101)	-0.8%	4,355	93
Fredericksburg	17,643	305	57	37	148	84	181	17,629	(14)	-0.1%	6,477	224
Harrisonburg	17,395	214	84	63	(75)	62	240	17,529	134	0.8%	5,981	133
James River	18,708	180	62	41	100	38	264	18,589	(119)	-0.6%	5,758	168
Lynchburg	16,518	169	20	7	90	84	252	16,288	(230)	-1.4%	5,652	106
Richmond	41,364	521	62	217	326	140	390	41,308	(56)	-0.1%	11,855	698
Roanoke	20,263	175	64	48	100	26	255	20,169	(94)	-0.5%	6,587	146
Staunton	13,946	124	5	(2)	236	20	211	13,606	(340)	-2.4%	4,703	93
Winchester	16,980	374	84	59	34	78	206	17,179	199	1.2%	6,339	241
York River	27,876	341	12	50	103	56	372	27,748	(128)	-0.5%	8,002	265
<b>2011 Totals</b>	<b>334,764</b>	<b>4,704</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>2,010</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>3,908</b>	<b>334,131</b>	<b>(633)</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>108,855</b>	<b>3,762</b>
<b>2010 Totals</b>	<b>338,334</b>	<b>4,734</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>4,646</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>3,840</b>	<b>334,764</b>	<b>(3,806)</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>	<b>108,420</b>	<b>3,659</b>
<b>2009 Totals</b>	<b>337,560</b>	<b>5,966</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>2,431</b>	<b>3,829</b>	<b>338,334</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>112,624</b>	<b>3,715</b>

	Enrolled in Confirmation	Children in Small Group Ministries	Youth in Small Group Ministries	Young Adults in Small Group Ministries	Other Adults in Small Group Ministries	Total People Participating in Small Group Ministries	Budget Receipts (in Thousands)	Clergy Salaries, Housing & Pensions (in Thousands)	Other Staff Expenses (in Thousands)	Church Program Expenses (in Thousands)	Church Operating Expenses (in Thousands)	Principal & Interest Payments (in Thousands)
Alexandria	481	3,869	1,792	760	5,623	12,044	28,137	6,068	7,749	1,560	5,227	2,641
Arlington	424	3,981	1,843	480	5,578	11,882	26,820	5,050	7,625	1,839	5,156	4,298
Charlottesville	109	946	499	158	1,715	3,318	7,438	2,449	1,138	396	1,482	484
Danville	89	661	433	308	1,838	3,240	7,319	2,386	1,341	378	1,627	201
Eastern Shore	83	441	238	141	909	1,729	3,494	1,251	383	182	928	79
Elizabeth River	409	4,597	2,461	776	6,335	14,169	20,438	5,001	5,254	1,151	4,695	2,783
Farmville	93	696	397	241	1,748	3,082	6,606	2,598	663	400	1,214	269
Fredericksburg	224	2,472	796	328	2,555	6,151	12,183	3,275	2,376	677	1,816	1,504
Harrisonburg	133	1,033	635	446	2,739	4,853	8,584	3,220	1,305	540	1,598	510
James River	168	1,235	739	500	2,875	5,349	9,190	3,054	1,500	501	2,141	901
Lynchburg	106	839	584	303	2,664	4,390	8,734	2,690	1,638	453	1,673	542
Richmond	698	3,723	2,086	596	6,452	12,857	22,764	6,700	6,135	1,703	4,684	3,066
Roanoke	146	1,435	882	471	3,031	5,819	11,870	2,992	2,580	730	2,371	1,836
Staunton	93	667	349	202	1,957	3,175	6,682	2,627	1,125	300	1,387	352
Winchester	241	1,670	918	330	2,876	5,794	10,694	3,258	2,042	744	2,120	724
York River	265	1,610	1,142	368	4,435	7,555	15,325	4,009	3,817	904	3,350	1,928
<b>2011 Totals</b>	<b>3,762</b>	<b>29,875</b>	<b>15,794</b>	<b>6,408</b>	<b>53,330</b>	<b>105,407</b>	<b>206,278</b>	<b>56,628</b>	<b>46,671</b>	<b>12,458</b>	<b>41,469</b>	<b>22,118</b>

## REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TREASURER

Cash Receipts for the Year Ending December 31, 2011

	YTD 12/31/11	YTD 12/31/10	Increase (Decrease)	Pct. Inc.\Dec.
<b>Apportioned Funds</b>				
<b><i>Conference Retained Funds</i></b>				
401 World Service & Conf. Benevolences	6,059,142	5,479,521	579,621	10.58%
403 Equitable Compensation	440,600	973,410	(532,810)	-54.74%
406 District Superintendents	2,255,284	2,090,385	164,899	7.89%
407 Conference Services	1,637,127	1,844,248	(207,121)	-11.23%
409 Church Extension & Development	652,042	630,039	22,003	3.49%
411 Ministerial Education	866,709	845,240	21,469	2.54%
Subtotal	11,910,904	11,862,843	48,061	0.41%
<b><i>Pass-through Funds</i></b>				
402 Episcopal	809,802	776,169	33,633	4.33%
404 Active Clergy Health Benefits	7,662,179	7,230,785	431,394	5.97%
405 Retired Clergy Health & Pensions	5,327,302	5,145,512	181,790	3.53%
408 Educational Fund	842,533	819,256	23,277	2.84%
412 General & Jurisdictional Connectional	478,271	457,811	20,460	4.47%
413 Interdenominational Coop.	68,311	66,637	1,674	2.51%
414 Black College	342,849	337,850	4,999	1.48%
415 Africa University	82,226	77,485	4,741	6.12%
Subtotal	15,613,473	14,911,505	701,968	4.71%
<b>Total Apportioned Funds</b>	<b>27,524,377</b>	<b>26,774,348</b>	<b>750,029</b>	<b>2.80%</b>
<b>General Advance Specials</b>				
World Missions	796,500	1,843,616	(1,047,116)	-56.80%
U.M.C.O.R.	799,885	607,628	192,257	31.64%
Va. Conference Advance Specials	360,456	405,072	(44,616)	-11.01%
<b>Special Days</b>				
Human Relations Day	12,316	11,721	595	5.08%
One Great Hour of Sharing	118,553	91,543	27,010	29.51%
Native American Awareness	15,204	21,660	(6,456)	-29.81%
Peace with Justice	8,534	11,912	(3,378)	-28.36%
World Communion	23,262	26,176	(2,914)	-11.13%
UM Student Day	11,317	13,922	(2,605)	-18.71%
<b>Other Funds</b>				
Christian Education Fund	1,982	4,271	(2,289)	-53.59%
Youth Service	19,594	16,238	3,356	20.67%
Samaritan Fund - VA Homes	32,419	46,431	(14,012)	-30.18%
UMFS	147,560	87,951	59,609	67.78%
Comm. on Disab.\Camp Rainbow	84,049	40,635	43,414	106.84%
Other	128,924	145,932	(17,008)	-11.65%
<b>Total Non-Apportioned Funds</b>	<b>2,560,555</b>	<b>3,374,708</b>	<b>(814,153)</b>	<b>-24.13%</b>
<b>Total Church Receipts</b>	<b>30,084,932</b>	<b>30,149,056</b>	<b>(64,124)</b>	<b>-0.21%</b>

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

SECTION I - Summary of Conference Budget for 2013						
	Sch.	2012	2013	% of Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
<b>Conference Apportionments</b>						
401 - Conference Mission & Ministries	A	3,565,000	3,595,000	11.23%	30,000	0.80%
402 - Conference Services	B	1,897,000	1,951,000	6.10%	54,000	2.67%
403 - District Superintendents Fund	C	2,150,000	2,150,000	6.72%	-	0.00%
404 - Equitable Compensation		550,000	550,000	1.72%	-	0.00%
405 - Church Extension & Development		812,500	512,500	1.60%	(300,000)	-36.92%
406 - Virginia Education Fund		1,018,875	1,018,875	3.19%	-	0.00%
<b>Total Conference Apportionments</b>		<b>9,993,375</b>	<b>9,777,375</b>	<b>30.56%</b>	<b>(216,000)</b>	<b>-2.02%</b>
<b>Clergy Benefits Apportionments</b>						
407 - Active Clergy Health		8,713,713	9,062,262	28.33%	348,549	4.12%
408 - Retired Clergy Health		5,434,412	5,651,788	17.67%	217,376	4.00%
409 - Pension Liability Assessment - Pre 82		2,010,310	1,387,695	4.34%	(622,615)	-110.49%
<b>Total Clergy Benefit Apportionments</b>		<b>16,158,435</b>	<b>16,101,745</b>	<b>50.34%</b>	<b>(56,690)</b>	<b>-0.39%</b>
<b>General &amp; Jurisdictional Apportionments</b>						
410 - Episcopal Fund		962,717	862,982	2.70%	(99,735)	-10.94%
411 - World Service		3,160,556	3,095,016	9.68%	(65,540)	-2.02%
412 - General & Jurisdictional Connectional Fund		611,450	504,303	1.58%	(107,147)	-17.72%
413 - Ministerial Education		1,048,613	1,049,604	3.28%	991	0.09%
414 - Black College Fund		418,244	418,658	1.31%	414	0.09%
415 - Africa University Fund		93,606	93,688	0.29%	82	0.08%
416 - Interdenominational Cooperation Fund		83,004	82,047	0.26%	(957)	-1.12%
<b>Total General &amp; Jurisdictional Apportionments</b>		<b>6,378,190</b>	<b>6,106,298</b>	<b>19.10%</b>	<b>(271,892)</b>	<b>-4.20%</b>
<b>Total Apportionments</b>		<b>32,530,000</b>	<b>31,985,418</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>(544,582)</b>	<b>-1.72%</b>

**2013 Schedule A - Apportionment 401 - Conference Mission & Ministries**

	2012	2013	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
<b>Conference Benevolence Grants</b>					
1. Chaplain Service of Churches	119,500	119,500	0.37%	-	0.00%
2. Virginia Council of Churches	62,800	62,800	0.20%	-	0.00%
4. Virginia Interfaith Center	5,000	5,000	0.02%	-	0.00%
5. Society of St. Andrew	5,000	5,000	0.02%	-	0.00%
6. Appalachian Ministry Network	1,800	1,800	0.01%	-	0.00%
7. Industrial & Commercial Ministries	900	900	0.00%	-	0.00%
	<b>195,000</b>	<b>195,000</b>	<b>0.62%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Conference Programs</b>	<b>105,447</b>	<b>105,447</b>	<b>0.33%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>New Church Start Salary Support</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>1.25%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Campus Ministries</b>	<b>825,000</b>	<b>825,000</b>	<b>2.58%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Program &amp; Board Administrative Expenses</b>					
1. Common Table	8,500	8,500	0.03%	-	0.00%
2. Departmental Administration (See below)	64,522	64,680	0.20%	158	0.24%
3. Agency Administration (See below)	132,005	124,750	0.39%	(7,255)	-5.50%
4. Personnel Costs	1,171,886	1,248,267	3.90%	76,381	6.52%
5. Information Technologies	29,500	29,500	0.09%	-	0.00%
7. Video Production & Documentation	5,000	5,000	0.02%	-	0.00%
8. Regional Ministry Teams	20,000	-	0.00%	(20,000)	-100.00%
9. Building Operations & Services	165,000	165,000	0.52%	-	0.00%
10. Postage, Printing & Telephone	34,284	10,000	0.03%	(24,284)	-70.83%
11. Contingency	5,000	10,000	0.03%	5,000	100.00%
	<b>1,635,697</b>	<b>1,665,697</b>	<b>5.21%</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>1.83%</b>
<b>Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall</b>	<b>403,856</b>	<b>403,856</b>	<b>1.26%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
	<b>3,565,000</b>	<b>3,595,000</b>	<b>11.25%</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>0.84%</b>
<b>Supporting Schedule, Line 2 - Departmental Administration</b>					
1. Connectional Ministries	9,600	9,600	0.03%	-	0.00%
2. Communications	8,407	8,425	0.03%	18	0.21%
3. Congregational Excellence	11,370	11,370	0.03%	-	0.00%
4. Ministries with Young People	11,745	11,745	0.04%	-	0.00%
5. Inclusivity and Lay Leadership Excellence	11,400	10,500	0.04%	(900)	-7.89%
6. Justice and Missional Excellence	12,000	13,040	0.03%	1,040	8.67%
	<b>64,522</b>	<b>64,680</b>	<b>0.20%</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>0.24%</b>
<b>Supporting Schedule, Line 3 - Agency Administration</b>					
1. Church & Society	10,550	9,150	0.03%	(1,400)	-13.27%
2. Discipleship	18,150	18,100	0.06%	(50)	-0.28%
3. Global Ministries	17,955	19,500	0.06%	1,545	8.60%
3a. Committee on Mission Personnel	35,000	35,000	0.11%	-	0.00%
4. Communications	6,700	6,700	0.02%	-	0.00%
5. Higher Education	9,000	9,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
6. Laity	11,700	11,700	0.04%	-	0.00%
7. CEMCA	6,400	5,600	0.02%	(800)	-12.50%
8. COSROW	4,550	3,700	0.01%	(850)	-18.68%
9. Commission on Disabilities	8,200	2,500	0.01%	(5,700)	-69.51%
10. Church Development Team	3,800	3,800	0.01%	-	0.00%
	<b>132,005</b>	<b>124,750</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	<b>(7,255)</b>	<b>-5.50%</b>
<b>Supporting Schedule, Line 4 - Personnel Costs</b>					
1. Program Ministry Staff	945,789	1,011,364	3.16%	65,575	6.93%
2. Information Technology Staff	120,500	123,342	0.39%	2,842	2.36%
3. Advocate Salary Support	70,597	74,530	0.23%	3,933	5.57%
4. Video Production Staff Salary Support	35,000	39,031	0.12%	4,031	11.52%
	<b>1,171,886</b>	<b>1,248,267</b>	<b>3.90%</b>	<b>76,381</b>	<b>6.52%</b>

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

	2012	2013	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1. Board of Ordained Ministry (see below)	275,940	281,940	0.88%	6,000	2.17%
2. Bishop's Assistant	155,000	115,000	0.36%	(40,000)	-25.81%
3. Annual Conference Session	210,000	200,000	0.63%	(10,000)	-4.76%
4. Mortgage Payments	265,000	330,000	1.03%	65,000	24.53%
5. Treasurer's Office	352,000	370,000	1.16%	18,000	5.11%
6. Computer Services	80,000	80,000	0.25%	-	0.00%
7. Wesley Foundation Property Maint	50,000	50,000	0.16%	-	0.00%
8. Richmond Area Episcopal Expense	26,500	26,500	0.08%	-	0.00%
9. Pastor Relocation & Transition	17,000	17,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
10. Archives	15,000	7,500	0.02%	(7,500)	-50.00%
11. Council on Finance and Administration	7,500	7,500	0.02%	-	0.00%
12. Historical Society	8,700	8,000	0.03%	(700)	-8.05%
13. Board of Trustees	2,000	2,000	0.01%	-	0.00%
14. Telephone Service	20,000	15,000	0.05%	(5,000)	-25.00%
15. Insurance	32,000	27,000	0.08%	(5,000)	-15.63%
16. Postage & Printing	30,000	25,000	0.08%	(5,000)	-16.67%
17. Building Operations & Services	23,000	23,000	0.07%	-	0.00%
18. Conference Publications	7,500	7,500	0.02%	-	0.00%
19. Bishop's auto allowance	5,000	5,000	0.02%	-	0.00%
20. Contingency Funds for Unforeseen Expenses	10,000	10,000	0.03%	-	0.00%
21. Legal	13,000	13,000	0.04%	-	0.00%
22. Episcopal Residence	-	100,000	0.31%	100,000	
23. 2012 General Conf. Hosting costs	9,800	-	0.00%	(9,800)	-100.00%
24. Contingency Funds - Budget Shortfall	282,060	230,060	0.72%	(52,000)	-18.44%
	<b>1,897,000</b>	<b>1,951,000</b>	<b>6.10%</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>2.85%</b>
<b>Board of Ordained Ministry</b>					
1. Minister's Family Counseling	15,000	15,000	0.05%	-	0.00%
2. Candidates' Evaluation	20,000	20,000	0.06%	-	0.00%
3. Sexual Ethics Response Team	1,780	1,780	0.01%	-	0.00%
4. Clergy Families in Transition	20,000	20,000	0.06%	-	0.00%
5. Center for Clergy Excellence	8,620	12,620	0.04%	4,000	46.40%
6. Personnel Costs	151,000	155,000	0.48%	4,000	2.65%
7. Board of Ordained Ministry Administration	59,540	57,540	0.18%	(2,000)	-3.36%
	<b>275,940</b>	<b>281,940</b>	<b>0.88%</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>2.17%</b>

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

	2012	2013	Budget	Inc.\(Dec.)	% Chg.
1. Salaries & Pension	1,690,572	1,700,000	5.31%	9,428	0.47%
2. Travel & Meetings	113,500	115,000	0.36%	1,500	1.32%
3. Other	21,200	25,000	0.08%	3,800	17.12%
4. Contingency Funds - Conference Budget Shortfall	324,728	310,000	0.97%	(14,728)	-3.56%
	<b>2,150,000</b>	<b>2,150,000</b>	<b>6.72%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

### SECTION III - Recommended Apportionments to Districts and Local Churches

#### A. Total Recommended Apportionment Levels: (subject to change with General Conference action)

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:

##### 2013 Virginia Conference Apportionments

401-Conference Mission & Ministries	3,595,000
402-Conference Service	1,951,000
403-District Superintendents Fund	2,150,000
404-Equitable Compensation	550,000
405-Church Extension & Development	512,500
406-Virginia Education Fund	1,018,875
407-Active Clergy Health	9,062,262
408-Retired Clergy Health	5,651,788
409-Pension Liability Assessment - Pre 82	1,387,695
410-Episcopal Fund	862,982
411-World Service	3,095,016
412-General & Jurisdictional Connectional Fund	504,303
413-Ministerial Education	1,049,604
414-Black College Fund	418,658
415-Africa University Fund	93,688
416-Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	82,047
	<u>\$31,985,418</u>

#### B. APPORTIONMENT RECOMMENDATION SPECIFICS:

##### Report on 2011

• As set out in Annual Conference procedures, the Annual Conference is informed, through this report, of shortfalls in World Service and Conference Benevolences and Conference Services. For 2011, the shortfalls for World Service and Conference Mission and Ministries Benevolences and Conference Services were \$1,394,977. These shortfalls were managed through budget cuts, contingency funds and Conference reserves in accordance with Annual Conference-approved policy.

##### Education Fund

• The Education Fund is apportioned to the districts at \$1,018,875 for 2013. CFA strongly urges the churches to accept and pay this fund amount in full. Based on recommendations of the Common Table, the following percentage distribution of the fund is proposed for 2013:

• Ferrum College	19.5%
• Randolph-Macon College	18.5%
• Randolph College	16.0%
• Randolph-Macon Academy	10.0%
• Shenandoah University	18.0%
• Virginia Wesleyan College	18.0%

##### Pensions and Conference Health:

CFA recommends the cost of health, pensions and other clergy benefits be apportioned in three separate apportionments. The first apportionment for active clergy health and benefits costs and the second apportionment for retired clergy health. The third apportionment is for pension liabilities with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church. These costs were combined into two apportionments in the prior year.

The apportionments are to be apportioned on the formula basis described in Section IV of this report.

#### Church Extension and Development Fund (CEF)

This fund is apportioned to the districts at \$512,500 for 2013, and is based on recommendations of the Common Table. The recommended formula for the distribution of receipts to the fund is as follows:

- (1) 65% of the amounts raised are to be directed to the Church Development Team for conference-wide grants to new and existing churches.
- (2) 25% of amounts raised by districts are to be returned to the district; and,
- (3) 10% of amounts raised are to be directed to a joint committee of the Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy and the Grants Committee of the Common Table.

#### SECTION IV— 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. 2013 apportionments are calculated using 2011 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:

$$\text{Individual Church Net Paid} / \text{Total of all Conference Churches Net Paid} = \text{Church Decimal}$$

##### 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 (\$5,000) per health plan eligible clergy based upon the July 1, 2012, 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 (2011 for 2013 apportionments).

The district then passes the apportionments on to the local church according to recommendations developed by the district superintendents and the district stewards.

##### 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 (§615.1 of 2008 Discipline).

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 §812 of the 2008 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." (§812 of the 2008 Discipline).

#### SECTION V — Annual Conference Special Offerings

Annual Conference offerings provide important and life-giving support for key Conference programs. The following are recommended for approval for 2013:

- 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.

- Christian Education. It is recommended that each church designate a week in September for the observance of Christian Education and that an offering be taken. The offering is to be forwarded to the Conference treasurer and will be allocated as follows: (a) 50% for Conference Division on Education; and (b) 50% back to the districts for education and leadership development.

- Industrial and Commercial Ministries. It is recommended that Labor Day Sunday be designated for Industrial and Commercial Ministries and that churches receive an offering at that time in support of this Virginia Conference program.

- Virginia United Methodist Homes Samaritan Fund. It is recommended that the period between Mother's Day and Father's Day be designated in support of the Virginia United Methodist Homes Samaritan Fund, and that local church offerings collected during that period be dedicated to this Virginia Conference program.

- 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.

- Annual Conference Offering. CFA recommends continued support for this important offering.

## **SECTION VI — Recommended Policies**

### **A. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S FUND**

Overall Policies for the Fund:

It is recommended that, in compliance with the *Book of Discipline*, the salaries and expenses for district superintendents (DS), and those under special appointment, 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:

- The starting salary for each newly appointed district superintendents (DS) shall: (a) not exceed 95% of the Bishop's annual salary (maximum); or (b) not be less than twice the minimum salary of an Elder (minimum).

- The salary is to be set at an amount equal to the person's most recent annual salary, plus a fixed dollar amount set by the Annual Conference (upon recommendation of CFA), but not to exceed \$4,000 (except that such increase must conform to the upper and lower salary limitations set out above).

- Each year, the annual salaries of DSs are to be adjusted by a percentage or an amount to be set by the Annual Conference (upon recommendation of CFA), but not to exceed in aggregate the latest five-year average percentage change in the Conference Average Salary, with the total annual salary not to exceed 95% of Bishop's annual salary. CFA also administers salary-related expenses, to include such items as pensions, supplemental benefits, travel by voucher, continuing education, and other Cabinet-related expenses. The total cost of salaries and related expenses apportioned to Districts are to be based on the current approved decimal system (upon recommendation of CFA). All other DS costs, such as housing, district office expenses and staff, are to be paid at the district level.

#### **Authorizations for 2013:**

The district superintendents' salaries will remain the same for 2013.

**B. TRAVEL & MEETING EXPENSES** for 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 35 cents for conference staff and the IRS reimbursement rate for volunteers (currently 14 cents) serving boards and agencies of the Conference.

- Meals are to be reimbursed at actual costs, but not to exceed \$20 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 \$85, 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** are 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 \$100 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 incapacity 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. Boards and other agencies and institutions served by clergy under appointment will be responsible for said clergy's expenses to the annual conference.

### **D. CONFERENCE RESERVE FUNDS**

#### **Policies on the Maintenance of Reserve Fund Levels:**

The Council is reviewing the Reserve policies in light of the current economic situation. The following policies are unchanged from the past; however, they represent targets that at present are not realities.

Reserve funds in the amount of \$200,000 are available 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.]

Reserve funds in the amount of \$300,000 are available to maintain orderly cash flow during the Conference year, with such activity to cover salaries, grants, etc.

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.

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.

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 report to the Annual Conference Session. (See the conference Undesignated Reserve report in Section II.)

#### **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 full-time 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 Conference *Guidelines for Moving Expenses* as printed in the *Journal* of the Virginia 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 2012 *Journal of the Virginia Conference* is to be made available by posting on the Virginia Conference website <www.vaumc.org> as a pdf file. It will be available as a CD or printed copy upon request at a cost of \$10 for the CD and \$25 for the print version. Requests for printed copies must be made by Aug. 15 of the calendar year, and payment must be made at the time the order is placed. Only a small quantity of *Journals* will be printed and distributed in compliance with the *Book of Discipline* (§606.2), to district offices, Conference staff, and those purchasing copies before the Aug. 15 deadline. Because many other conferences across the connection are finding great success with delivery of the conference *Journal* through their websites and because it is imperative that the conference continues to find ways to reduce costs, the Conference Publications Committee believes this new policy will serve the Virginia Conference well.

#### **G. CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:**

It is recommended that the Conference-Provided Publications Committee be continued, composed of the following: (1) the director of the Connectional Ministries; (2) conference Business Manager; (3) the *Journal* Editor; and (4) the conference director of Communications, who will serve as the convener of the committee. The Committee may convene at any time at the request of any committee member as long as a majority of the committee members are present. [The committee oversees the production and publication of the conference *Journal* and other such publications and mailings that are appropriate to keeping the conference members linked to the business of the Annual Conference.]

#### **H. CLERGY DIRECTORY**

One copy of the *Directory of the Ministry* is to be mailed to all Virginia Conference clergy (active and retired, including lay pastors and diaconal ministers). Widows/widowers of clergy

are also entitled to a free copy upon request. Additional copies may be purchased at a cost of \$4 each (includes shipping and handling). An updated version of the directory is available on the conference website as a pdf file.

#### **I. AUDIT REPORTS:**

CFA stresses the requirement that all agencies, institutions, and district offices submit a copy of their audit report to the conference Treasurer by June 1 of each year. Audits should be conducted by independent, professional auditors.

#### **J. IRS REGULATIONS:**

CFA recommends that all church and/or charge treasurers comply with the IRS regulations.

#### **K. REQUESTS FOR BUDGET FUNDING:**

CFA recommends that all groups requesting funding from CFA submit requests for budget funding to CFA by Jan. 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.

#### **SECTION VII – 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 is 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!

#### **SECTION VIII — Special Reports**

The Council on Finance and Administration will continue an internal committee to monitor activities of agencies of the conference to assure compliance with ¶¶612.2 and 612.16 of the 2008 *Discipline*.

*Jeff Davis, President*

#### **REQUIRED REPORT**

The Council on Finance and Administration (CFA), as requested by the 2011 Annual Conference, presents the following report regarding district superintendents’ salaries. The

Annual Conference requested that CFA present a plan that addresses the concerns of the motion passed during the 2011 Annual Conference regarding district superintendents' salaries. CFA provides the following plan in response to the request: The annual salary for all new district superintendents (appointed July 1, 2012, and after) be \$88,000. All current district superintendents who are presently below \$88,000 would move to \$88,000 as of January 1, 2013. All district superintendents currently above \$88,000 would remain at their current level.

### **LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY CENTER, INC.**

As Lake Junaluska prepares to celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2013, we find ourselves proud of our rich past, energized by the present challenges, and excited about the bright future.

We cannot thank you enough for the generous support you have provided to us over the years. We are a part of you and you will forever be a part of us. We fully understand that the Southeastern Jurisdiction is facing significant challenges resulting in a reduction in the financial support provided to traditional partners, including Lake Junaluska. We want to assure you that we are preparing well for a different form of partnership with the jurisdiction and you, the annual conferences, but do want to strongly affirm our desire to be in true partnership with each of you.

We are making some important improvements with the goal of serving you more effectively. In 2012 we will spend over \$1 million on capital improvements to our facilities, including \$300,000 from the North Carolina Energy Office for the replacement of inefficient heating and cooling systems. Being more "green" is one of our goals. We will use the remainder of the capital improvement funds to get a jump start on a campus master plan, which is a part of the overall strategic plan approved by our Board of Directors in October. Included in the plan are the interior and exterior renovations of the Terrace Hotel and Lambuth Inn, the replacement of the Harrell Center and Jones Cafeteria, and the updating of Stuart Auditorium. These changes will be taking place over the course of the next several years, but there should be noticeable changes the next time you come to visit.

The success of every organization is directly dependent on having the right people in the right positions doing the right things. It is also important to have the right number of people in place. There are fewer people employed at Lake Junaluska than there were a year ago at this time, a necessary change given our financial realities. The remaining staff has willingly taken on additional responsibilities and are doing them very well.

Hosting the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference in July will be a very important event. We are doing all we can to prepare for this conference with the hope that every delegate leaves here knowing that we have been good stewards of the resources that have been given to us.

Our mission statement for Lake Junaluska is to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body. The significance of having a clear mission statement that people remember and refer to has been impacting. Continuing to create a culture of excellence and fabulous Christian hospitality will be our primary focus.

The future of Lake Junaluska is indeed very bright! Thank you for your incredible support as we have begun to live more fully into the potential of this place we call Lake Junaluska.

*Jack Ewing, Executive Director*

### **VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

The Virginia Council of Churches remains strong, albeit on very fragile financial footing, and will continue to serve the ecumenical movement within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Continuing declines to revenue have created the need to reduce some of our staff to part time and cut all other areas of our budget in an effort to stay within budget.

In May we presented the Council's "Faith in Action Award" to the Brandermill Church, a joint United Methodist-Presbyterian congregation, and a "Lifetime Ecumenist Award" to Bishop Charlene Kammerer.

The council continues to support the LARCUM (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and United Methodist) partnership, the National Workshop on Christian Unity and other expressions of ecumenism within the Commonwealth, and played a significant role in this

year's shared statement by the ten LARCUM bishops and the General Minister released during the week of prayer for Christian Unity.

Our Annual Meeting, *Church Caught in the Middle*, was held on the historic campus of Virginia Union University with Dr. Ed Ayers (president, University of Richmond), and Dr. Claude Perkins (president, Virginia Union University). During the Annual Gathering a panel discussion with members various historic peace denominations reflected together on the challenges of conflict resolution.

We continue to work with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in helping the faith-based community prepare for and respond to disasters. During 2011 resources were stretched in the Commonwealth and voluntary organizations as we responded to tornados, hurricanes, even earthquakes, all within a very brief period of time. The Council of Churches continues to play a key role on the Disaster Fund created by Gov. Bob McDonnell to respond to the variety of events that have impacted the Commonwealth, also playing a role with the Long-Term Recovery Task Force in Louisa as that area recovered from last summer's earthquake.

The program units of the council remain strong and active. We continue to stand with our Native American brothers and sisters of the six Virginia tribes as they seek federal recognition. We are disappointed that the 111th Congress adjourned without taking any action, forcing our tribes to start all over again.

Our partnership with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy helps give voice to our shared concerns for justice on the floor of the General Assembly. We began two new initiatives this year raising awareness and addressing concerns relating to the shackling of pregnant inmates and the use of solitary confinement. Our Rural Family Development Program continues to serve children of migrant farm worker families. Our Refugee Resettlement Program celebrates 50 years of welcoming new Virginians in 2012, helping persons to start new lives in a new land.

Officers of the Virginia Council of Churches are: the Rev. David McKee, president; the Rev. Reginald Terry, vice president; the Rev. David Shumate, treasurer; Jean James, secretary.

Contact the Virginia Council of Churches at 1214 West Graham Rd., Richmond, VA 23220-1409, (804) 321-3300 or <[www.vacouncilofchurches.org](http://www.vacouncilofchurches.org)> for information about the council and links with member denominations at national and Virginia levels.

*The Rev. Jonathan M. Barton, General Minister*



## A REPORTING GUIDE FOR LAY MEMBERS OF THE 2012 VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 22-24, 2012

Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer, *presiding*  
Shirley M. Cauffman, *Conference Lay Leader*

*All God's People in  
All Places,  
And in  
All Times,  
Are Called to Love  
And to Serve.  
— Ministry of the Laity*

### THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

The *2008 Book of Discipline*, ¶601, Section IX, THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. “The purpose of the Annual Conference is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.”

The *2008 Book of Discipline*, ¶130, Section II, THE UNITY OF MINISTRY IN CHRIST. “There is but one ministry in Christ, but there are diverse gifts and evidences of God’s grace in the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:4-16). The ministry of all Christians is complementary. No ministry is subservient to another. All United Methodists are summoned and sent by Christ to live and work together in mutual interdependence and to be guided by the Spirit into the truth that frees and the love that reconciles.”

Dear Lay Member of the Virginia Annual Conference:

Welcome to the 2012 Virginia Annual Conference. In The United Methodist Church we often speak of the church’s “connectional system.” As the lay member of Annual Conference, YOU ARE THE CONNECTION from your church/district/agency to the Annual Conference and from the Annual Conference to your church/district/agency.

### AS A LAY MEMBER OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE YOU SHOULD:

Attend all sessions and participate in all sessions of the Annual Conference: “The lay members of the Annual Conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures...” ¶602.6 *2008 Book of Discipline*

“Connect” with your local church when you return: “The lay member of the Annual Conference, along with the pastor, shall serve as an interpreter of the actions of the Annual Conference session. These persons shall report to the local church council on actions of the Annual Conference as soon as possible, but not later than three months after the close of the conference.” ¶251.2 *2008 Book of Discipline*

### THIS GUIDE IS OFFERED TO:

- aid lay members in recording their experiences and feelings about the events of this Annual Conference session;
- encourage lay members to interpret the mission and ministry we have together through our Annual Conference;
- assist lay members in preparing their reports and interpretationS of the actions and business of the 2012 Annual Conference session for sharing back in their local churches.

You make a difference by your attendance and participation in the Annual Conference session, and by reporting back to your local church or agency represented!

### SPEAKING ON THE FLOOR DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

You have the right to speak and vote on all issues except those that have to do with clergy and ministerial orders. If you wish to speak:

Take a few moments to think about what you want to say. Make some notes; keep your comments direct and to the point.

Stand and raise the red back of your so that the bishop can recognize you. Then, addressing the chair, identify yourself. For example: “Bishop Kammerer, I am \_\_\_\_\_, a lay member from (name of your local church and district.)

State the reason for seeking recognition and wait for a response from the bishop before continuing. If recognized, then ask your question, call for some clarification of parliamentary procedure, or make a statement in support of or opposition to the matter under discussion. Be brief and to the point!

If you have a motion you wish to present, introduce yourself and declare that you have a motion you would like to have considered. When action is complete, write the motion on the approved form and take it to the conference secretary. The blank forms can be found near the secretary’s desk on the stage.

### REMEMBER:

Lay members of the Annual Conference traditionally sit in the section to the left of the center aisle as you face Bishop Kammerer;

There is an equal number of lay and clergy making the decisions;

Standing Rules govern the session (see Order and Procedure and Standing Rules starting on Page 9 of this *Book of Reports*);

Items to be voted on come from this *Book of Reports* and from issues raised by members of the conference.

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

To help you while at Annual Conference, please follow the agenda as printed in this *Book of Reports*. Be on time for all scheduled events, including Singing Our Faith, Bible study and worship.

You are representing the approximately 342,000 United Methodists in more than 1,200 churches which are divided into 16 districts across the conference. It is important that we be faithful to this responsibility.

### PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Presiding Bishop: Bishop Charlene Kammerer
- Director of Connectional Ministries: The Rev. Marc Brown
- Conference Secretary: The Rev. Bob Blinn
- Conference Lay Leader: Shirley Cauffman
- Conference President of United Methodist Women: Olivia Hinton
- Conference President of United Methodist Men: Jim Green
- Student Chairperson of Conference Youth Council: C.J. Adcock
- Conference Co-Directors of Lay Servant Ministries: Johnnie Draughon and David Bailey

**SELECT, OBSERVE, CONSIDER** while at Annual Conference. A balanced and interesting report interpreting the work of Annual Conference should include “facts,” “feelings,” and “flavors.” We suggest that you:

Select significant happenings and impressions, and then make notes.

Observe the diversity and unity of our conference and identify some of the challenges this creates and some of the benefits this brings.

Consider the importance of what is happening here for you, for your local church, district and your conference.

**HOW, WHEN, WHAT** will you share of the Annual Conference session?

#### HOW:

- A panel with members presenting different aspects of conference.
- A dialogue between clergy and lay members.
- Be interviewed by someone in the congregation.
- Write an article(s) for your church newsletter.
- Display pictures, resource material, etc.

#### WHEN:

- Sunday morning during worship.
- Administrative Board/Church Council meeting.
- United Methodist Women/United Methodist Men/Youth meetings.
- Adult church school.
- Conversation with others.
- Special all-church dinner, picnic, etc.

#### WHAT:

- Write notes in the margins of this *Book of Reports*.
- Materials received in your packet, as well as handouts.
- Resources found for programs in your church (people, ideas, materials).
- Information obtained from display areas. Be certain to visit the displays and the Cokesbury book store during free time.

**LAITY SESSION** — In addition to the regular agenda, all lay members of Annual Conference will gather at 1 p.m. Friday, June 22, in the Civic Center for worship and information related to conference issues.

**LAITY BANQUET** — The Laity Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, June 23, at 5 p.m. Dr. Scott Johnson, president of the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders, will be the speaker. Contact your district lay leader for ticket information. No tickets will be sold at Annual Conference.

*This guide is prepared for you by the Board of Laity, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. Any comments, questions or suggestions should be directed to Virginia Conference Lay Leader Shirley Cauffman, 4613 41st Street N., Arlington, VA 22207. For more information, e-mail <shirley.cauffman@comcast.net>; or call (703) 241-1948.*



*Music from Jim Bennett and his musicians were a memorable part of the 2011 Annual Conference. At right, Bishop Tim Whitaker makes a comment during Rev. Steve Bray's report.*

## CONFERENCE CALENDAR

### JUNE 2012

- 1 UMW SEJ Quadrennial meeting, Birmingham, Ala.
- 2 Randolph-Macon Academy Commencement
- 2 UMWIM Team Leader Training, 8:45 a.m., Floris UMC, Herndon
- 4-6 UMW South Atlantic Regional School, Birmingham, Ala.
- 9 UMW Day at Ferrum College
- 22-24 Virginia Annual Conference, Roanoke
- 23 UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference, Roanoke
- 23 Clergy Spouses Annual Conference Luncheon, Roanoke
- 23 Laity Banquet, 5 p.m., Hotel Roanoke
- 25 Randolph-Macon Academy Trustees meeting
- 29-July 1 SoSA Harvest of Hope's intergenerational event, Ten Mile, Tenn.
- 29 Minutes Committee meeting, 10 a.m., UM Center, Glen Allen

### JULY 2012

- 1 Pell Grant and Service Loan application deadline
- 3 UM Center closed at 1 p.m.
- 4 UM Center closed, Independence Day observance
- 8-13 Camp Rainbow Connection, Blackstone
- 8-14 SoSA Harvest of Hope - Senior High, Watha, N.C.
- 12-15 'Finding Your Own Way' Youth Workers Retreat, Eagle Eyre, Lynchburg
- 13 Clergy Development application deadline
- 15-21 SoSA Harvest of Hope - Senior High, Ashland
- 19-20 Helping Hands Children's Mission event, Woodlake UMC, Midlothian
- 20-22 SoSA Harvest of Hope - Junior High, Exmore
- 22-28 SoSA Harvest of Hope - Senior High, Exmore
- 23-28 Sacred Music Summer Conference, Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk
- 24-25 Provisional Members Residency Event, Blackstone
- 25-30 United Nations Seminar, New York, N.Y.
- 27-29 Mission Encounter, Blackstone (formerly School of Christian Mission)
- 27-29 Harvest of Hope - intergenerational event, Sutherlin
- 27-Aug 5 LEAD Youth Leadership Training Event, Salvation Army, Roanoke
- 28 Virginia Statewide Day of Gleaning
- 29 Mission Interpretation Team (BGM) meeting, Blackstone
- 30-Aug 1 Mission Encounter, Blackstone (formerly School of Christian Mission)

### AUGUST 2012

- 5-7 SERVE Exploration event, R-MC
- 5-10 All God's Children Camp, Camp Occohannock
- 6-7 Helping Hands Children's Mission Event, Williamsburg UMC
- 10-11 Lay Supply Pastors Orientation, Blackstone
- 12-17 Camp Rainbow Connection, Blackstone
- 12-17 All God's Children Camp, Westview-on-the-James, Goochland
- 14-16 Conference Youth Council meeting, Eagle Eyre, Lynchburg
- 18 Board of Laity Executive Committee meeting, 10 a.m., UM Center

- 21-23 Church Planters “Boot Camp,” UM Center
- 31 UM Center closes at 1 p.m

## SEPTEMBER 2012

- 3 UM Center closed, Labor Day Observance
- 4 Health and Relief Team (BMG) meeting, UM Center
- 7 SoSA Executive Committee, Big Island
- 8 Board of Laity, 9:30 a.m., UM Center
- 10 Conference Trustees, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 12 Joint meeting of CEMCA, COSROW, COD, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 13 Common Table for Church Vitality meeting, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 17 Orientation for those applying for Provisional Membership, UM Center
- 19 Church Development Team meeting, 9:30 a.m., UM Center
- 19 Clergy Ethics II Training - York River District, Warwick Memorial UMC
- 20 BOM Executive Committee and Joint Cabinet meeting
- 21-22 UMW Young Women’s Event, Location TBA
- 23 Winchester District Mission Celebration, Front Royal, Hamilton, Stephens City
- 24-27 Cross Cultural/Racial Resource Team, Richmond Hill, Richmond
- 25 Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 27 Cross Cultural/Racial Training, Trinity UMC, Richmond
- 29 Vital Congregations Training, 8:30 a.m., Staunton District
- 30 Vital Congregations Training, 1:30 p.m., York River District

## OCTOBER 2012

- 1 Pell Grant and Service Loan application deadline
- 2-3 Virginia Diaconate Fall Retreat, Richmond Hill, Richmond
- 4 CLDDT meeting, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 4 Conference Historical Society Board meeting, 10:30 a.m., UM Center
- 4-6 Randolph College Board of Trustees meeting,
- 5-7 SoSA Harvest of Hope Intergenerational event, Fincastle
- 6 UMMen Cabinet, UM Center
- 6 Annual Apple Picking Jamboree
- 7-8 ‘Just War as Christian Discipleship’ event, Location TBA
- 9 Sexual Ethics Training for Clergy and Church Professionals, UM Center
- 9 VCC Joint Ecumenical Retreat, Roslyn Conference Center, Richmond
- 12 Clergy Development application deadline
- 12-14 SoSA Harvest of Hope Intergenerational event, Hiawasse, Ga.
- 13 UMW Budget meeting, UM Center
- 13 Vital Congregations Training, Fredericksburg District, 8:30 a.m.
- 13 UMWIM Team Leader Training, Timberlake UMC, Lynchburg
- 15-17 First-Year Provisional Members and Mentors Retreat, Blackstone
- 17 Virginia Wesleyan College Trustees meeting
- 18 Board of Communications, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 19-20 Randolph-Macon College Trustees
- 19-20 SoSA Board meeting, Big Island
- 20 Vital Congregations Training, Main Street UMC, South Boston, 8:30 a.m.

- 22 Randolph-Macon Academy Trustees
- 26-28 Harvest of Hope Intergenerational event, Exmore
- 27 College Turnip Picking Day, Riner
- 25 UMW Mission Team meeting, Blackstone
- 26 UMW Executive Committee, Blackstone
- 27 Sexual Ethics Training for Clergy and Church Professionals, UM Center
- 27 Ferrum College Folklife Festival
- 27-28 40<sup>th</sup> Annual UMW meeting/Officer Update, Blackstone
- 31 Virginia PAUMCS Fall Event, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 31 Large Church Lead Pastors Annual Gathering, Reveille UMC, Richmond

## NOVEMBER 2012

- 1 Mid-size Lead Pastors Annual Gathering, River Road UMC, Richmond
- 2 Ferrum College Board of Trustees Fall meeting
- 2-4 35th UMMen Spiritual Retreat, Blackstone
- 2-4 Harvest of Hope - Intergenerational Event, Groveland, Fla.
- 6 Election Day Gleaning, Riner, VA
- 6-7 Board of Ordained Ministry, Blackstone
- 9-12 Middle School Fall Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
- 13 Preachers’ Relief Society Annual meeting, Elizabeth River District office, 10 a.m.
- 13-15 New Church Leadership Institute, UM Center
- 14 Clergy Ethics II Training - Arlington District, Pender UMC
- 15 Equitable Compensation Commission meeting, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 16-18 Women’s Division Leadership Training Event, St. Louis, Mo.
- 21 UM Center closed 1 p.m.
- 22-23 UM Center closed, Thanksgiving Observance
- 22 Thanksgiving Day Gleaning, Riner
- 29 Church Development Team, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 30-Dec 2 High School Retreat, Eagle Eyre, Lynchburg

## DECEMBER 2012

- 1 UMMen Cabinet, UM Center
- 6 Common Table for Church Vitality, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 21 UM Center closed 1 p.m.
- 24-26 UM Center closed for Christmas Observance

## JANUARY 2013

- 1 UM Center closed, New Year’s Day
- 4-5 UMW Mission Team planning meeting, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 13 Vital Congregations Training, Richmond District, 1:30 p.m.
- 15 Clergy Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect Training, Blackstone
- 15-17 Ministers’ Convocation, Blackstone
- 16 Virginia Wesleyan College Trustees meeting
- 21 UM Center closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 27-30 Board of Ordained Ministry, Blackstone

**FEBRUARY 2013**

- 1-3 Conference Youth Council, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
- 5 Health and Relief Team (BGM), UM Center
- 7 UM Day at the General Assembly, Richmond
- 7 CLDDT, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 7-9 Randolph College Trustees
- 8 Clergy Development Application deadline
- 8-9 Randolph-Macon College Trustees
- 9 Board of Laity, Executive Committee 9:30 a.m., UM Center
- 16 Commission on Disabilities, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 21 Common Table for Church Vitality, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 21 Clergy Ethics II Training - Charlottesville District, Aldersgate UMC
- 22-24 Lay Servant Academy, Blackstone
- 24-27 Board of Ordained Ministry, Blackstone
- 25 Randolph-Macon Academy Trustees meeting

**MARCH 2013**

- 2 Conference Historical Society Board., 10:30 a.m., UM Center
- 3-8 Harvest of Hope's Alternative Spring Break, Groveland, Fla.
- 8 Deadline for material for *2013 Book of Reports*
- 7 UMW Mission Team meeting, Location TBD
- 8-9 UMW Executive Committee meeting, Location TBD
- 9 Board of Laity, 9:30 a.m., UM Center
- 16 Clergy Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect training, UM Center
- 21 Common Table for Church Vitality, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 28 UM Center closed at 1 p.m.
- 29 UM Center closed for Good Friday

**APRIL 2013**

- 9-10 Lay Supply Pastors' Orientation, Blackstone
- 17 Clergy Ethics II Training - Danville District, First UMC
- 21-23 Order of Elders, Blackstone
- 22 SoSA Executive Committee, Big Island
- 26-27 Randolph-Macon College Board of Trustees, 9 a.m.

**MAY 2013**

- 2-4 Randolph College Trustees
- 3 Ferrum College Board of Trustees
- 4 Ferrum College Commencement, Ferrum
- 5-8 Ecumenical Advocacy Days, Washington D.C.
- 6-7 Provisional Members Residency event, Blackstone
- 8 Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee, UM Center
- 10-11 UMW Spiritual Life Retreat, Blackstone
- 12 Randolph College Commencement
- 15 Virginia Wesleyan College Trustees meeting
- 16 SoSA Board meeting, Big Island
- 18 Virginia Wesleyan College Commencement, Norfolk

- 24 UM Center closed at 1 p.m.
- 25 Randolph-Macon College Commencement, Ashland
- 25 Randolph-Macon Academy Commencement, Front Royal
- 27 UM Center closed, Memorial Day Observance

**JUNE 2013**

- 1 UMW Day at Ferrum College, Ferrum
- 21-23 Virginia Annual Conference, Hampton
- 22 UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference
- 24 Randolph-Macon Academy Trustees

**JULY 2013**

- 3 UM Center closed at 1 p.m.
- 4 UM Center closed, Independence Day observance
- 6-7 Provisional Members Residency event, Blackstone
- 26-28 Virginia Conference Mission Encounter
- 29-Aug 1 Virginia Conference Mission Encounter

**AUGUST 2013**

- 27-29 Church Planters "Boot Camp" with Jim Griffith
- 30 UM Center closed at 1 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER 2013**

- 2 UM Center closed, Labor Day observance
- 12 SoSA Executive Committee, Big Island
- 14 Commission on Disabilities, 10 a.m., UM Center
- 26 Clergy Ethics II Training - Eastern Shore District, Franktown UMC
- 21-22 UMW Young Women's Event, Location TBD

**OCTOBER 2013**

- 3 Conference Historical Society Board meeting, 10:30 a.m., UM Center
- 12 UMW Budget meeting, 10 a.m. UM Center
- 18-19 Randolph-Macon College Board of Trustees, 9 a.m.
- 18-19 SoSA Board, Big Island
- 24 UMW Mission Team, Blackstone
- 25 UMW Executive Committee meeting, Blackstone
- 26-27 41<sup>st</sup> Annual UMW meeting, Blackstone
- 28 Randolph-Macon Academy Trustees

**NOVEMBER 2013**

- 6 Board of Ordained Ministry, UM Center
- 7 Clergy Ethics II Training, Richmond District, River Road UMC
- 8-10 Middle School Fall Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
- 18-20 Women's Division Leadership Training event, Location TBD
- 27 UM Center closes 1 p.m.
- 28-29 UM Center closed for Thanksgiving

## DECEMBER 2013

6-8	High School Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
23	UM Center closes 1 p.m.
24-26	UM Center closed for Christmas Observance

### ABBREVIATIONS USED IN CALENDAR:

Blackstone	Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center
BGM	Board of Global Ministries
BHEM	Board of Higher Education Ministries
BOL	Board of Laity
BOM	Board of Ordained Ministry
BC&S	Board of Church and Society
CCMP	Conference Committee on Mission Personnel
CEMCA	Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy
CLDDT	Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team
COD	Commission on Disabilities
COSROW	Commission on the Status and Role of Women
R-MA	Randolph-Macon Academy
R-MC	Randolph-Macon College
SoSA	Society of Saint Andrew
TBA	To Be Announced
UMC	United Methodist Church
UMMen	United Methodist Men
UMVIM	United Methodist Volunteers In Mission
UMW	United Methodist Women
UM Center	Virginia United Methodist Center, Glen Allen
VCC	Virginia Council of Churches

## Mission Opportunities During Annual Conference

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERING

Each year, members are encouraged to help raise money for mission projects designated by the bishop. The pastor or lay representative of each church will take that money to Annual Conference, where it will be collected during a special time of the session.

This year's offering will benefit the following projects:

**Brazil:** Studies show that the religious beliefs and values that a person develops by age 13 are pretty much those that they will maintain throughout life. For 20 years the Methodist Church of Brazil has provided safe centers of spiritual, physical and emotional nurture to at-risk children through the nationwide Shade and Fresh Water program with the goal of developing good citizens with strong Christian values. Funds from this year's conference offering will go for training, materials and start-up costs to enable these seeds of hope to be sown in new locations in Brazil, Mozambique and other parts of Latin America as the Shade and Fresh Water model is adapted and implemented for use in new settings. Through the Virginia Conference partnership with the Methodist Church of Brazil, good seeds will be planted on fertile soil, resulting in a bountiful harvest which transforms lives and makes disciples.

**Mozambique:** Offering seeds of growth and life to laity and clergy by providing opportunities for training and development as leaders continues to be a top priority for The United Methodist Church in Mozambique. A portion of this year's annual conference offering will go to provide materials and training in theological and biblical education by extension across the two annual conferences in Mozambique.

A second focus of the Mozambican UMC's request for funding this year focuses on the combined program with Brazil of Shade and Fresh Water. This program provides opportunities for seeds to be planted within the hearts and minds of at-risk children to know the love of God and to grow and be nurtured by the body of Christ in their communities and villages.

**Cambodia:** The Virginia Conference is being called to a unique opportunity to join the church in Cambodia as it is watering the seeds of church growth and working to become an autonomous Methodist Church in 2016. Our conference Initiatives of Hope mission focus has added Cambodia this past year. We have chosen to support them in their efforts to reach a population that is young and enthusiastic in witnessing to the transforming power of Jesus Christ in many areas of the country.

Their request for offering support is in three areas. The first is in pastoral ministry, church growth and lay leadership development through ongoing training workshops as they learn to serve and witness to their faith.

The second area of need is for scholarships for youths attending university and continuing education of pastors. Education in general was destroyed during the reign of the Khmer Rouge. Now all educational institutions are trying to build from scratch. Our gifts can support the effort to help pastors and youth improve their level of studies.

The third area of support requested is for purchase of land in pioneer areas, building new churches and repairing old facilities. Cambodian churches are designed as multi-purpose centers for worship and as gathering places for all ages. From these centers the people move into the villages and begin new communities of believers and disciples of Christ.

**Shalom Farms:** Shalom Farms is literally and spiritually planting seeds and celebrating the harvest of feeding the least of these in Christ's name.

Begun by United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond (UMUMR) in the fall of 2008 at Westview on the James, Shalom Farms is a nonprofit community farm project with the overarching goal of increasing access to healthful food in the Richmond region, particularly in low-income urban neighborhoods. UMUMR's Shalom Farms attains its goal by: 1) providing fresh and healthful produce to underserved communities; 2) providing educational training to children and adults on growing food, nutrition, and food-based entrepreneurship; and 3) linking community groups to a wide range of food security resources and partners.

In 2011, with the help of almost 2,000 volunteers, Shalom Farms grew and distributed 35,000 pounds of fresh organic produce to the children and families in Richmond most in need. In the "food

deserts” in which UMUMR operates, the nearest grocery store is often more than four miles away with more than 50 percent of residents lacking access to their own transportation. The produce, grown with the help of many partners including the recipients, is distributed at food pantries, served in meals at soup kitchens and after school programs, used in cooking classes and sold at youth-run farm stands.

More information about these projects and promotional materials can be found on the conference website at <www.vaumc.org> under “Resources >> Annual Conference 2012.” Or contact the conference Center for Justice and Mission Excellence at 1-800-768-6040, ext. 144, or (804) 521-1144, or <Mission@vaumc.org>.

#### **POTATO DROP**

The Virginia Conference Board of Global Ministries and the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) are co-sponsoring a Potato Drop on Friday, June 22, at 5:30 a.m.

The potatoes will provide 120,000-135,000 servings of food to the region’s poor and hungry. SoSA is delivering a tractor-trailer filled with more than 20 tons of donated sweet potatoes to Roanoke and the board is helping to cover the cost of shipping. The truck will arrive in the predawn hours and the potatoes will be dumped in Parking Lot A of the Civic Center Parking Lot. This is the northeast corner of the lot facing Orange Ave. and Sheets.

Volunteers are needed to help bag and load the potatoes for pickup by regional food banks, church pantries, soup kitchens and other local feeding agencies. Bagging is expected to be completed before 7:30 a.m.

#### **4 CANS 4 CONFERENCE**

Please plan to bring at least:

- 1 can of veggies and/or fruit;
- 1 can of meat or fish (Spam, corned beef, tuna, salmon, chicken, etc.);
- 1 can of soup or stew;
- 1 can opened with a “pop top”;
- Cereal, grits, cooking oil, sugar, flour, box mixes (cornbread, Hamburger Helper, etc.), and other staple goods are welcomed, beyond the first four cans.

Remember, new cans only! No home-canned, dinged/damaged, glass, out-dated, or label-less items.

The collection truck will be stationed near the kits truck, for “one stop generosity.” (No need to take these things inside the Civic Center.) We’ll close by the end of the afternoon session on Saturday, so the Food Bank folks can take care of their work, and the truck can go home to the nearby U-Haul lot.

For more information, visit the conference website <www.vaumc.org> under the pull-down tab for “2012 Annual Conference,” or contact the Rev. Jim Earley, Walker Chapel UMC, (703) 538-5200 or <office@walkerchapel.org>.

#### **UMCOR KITS**

**KITS FOR CONFERENCE** — The 2012 Virginia Conference kit collection is being conducted to replenish the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) supply. UMCOR’s Sager Brown Depot reports there is a need for all types of kits. Local churches are encouraged to collect items for any of the following most requested UMCOR kits and bring them to Annual Conference in Roanoke for delivery:

##### **SCHOOL KIT**

- 1 pair blunt scissors rounded tip only; no plastic scissors
- 3 units of paper 8½ x 11 spiral notebooks or top-bound pads; 150 sheets of loose-leaf can be as 1 unit; combinations of spiral, top-bound or loose-leaf is acceptable, not composition books
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener; must be at least one inch long and removed from packaging
- 1 30-centimeter ruler, hard or flexible; cartoon characters are acceptable but not advertisements
- 6 unsharpened pencils; no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols; cartoon characters are acceptable

- 2 half-inch erasers with no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols; cartoon characters are acceptable
- 24-count box of crayons
- 14”x16” cloth bag; homemade or purchased bags are acceptable; heavy-duty fabric only: denim, corduroy, drapery fabric etc; no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols; closures are optional, but must be buttons, snaps or Velcro-sewn in middle of opening if used

Assembly: Place all loose items on top of paper. Turn items sideways and slide into the cloth bag. Fold over the top of the bag so loose items do not fall out. Note: A pattern for the bag can be found at <www.umcor.org>. Go to “How To Give” at the top of the page and scroll down to “Relief Supplies” then scroll down until you find the “School Kit” section and click on “sewing patterns.”

##### **LAYETTE KIT**

- 6 cloth diapers, pre-folded or plain diapers only, not disposable
- 2 shirts - undershirts or onesies
- 2 wash cloths - infant size only - no adult wash cloths
- 2 gowns or sleepers
- 2 diaper pins – must have protective plastic closures - no regular safety pins
- 1 sweater or jacket - open from the front; may be hand knitted, crocheted or sewn; hooded sweat-shirts are acceptable
- 2 receiving blankets - 30” x 30” or 32” x 32” sizes recommended - no crib blankets

Assembly: Lay one of the receiving blankets flat on a table. Set aside the diaper pins and place all remaining items on top of the blanket. Fold the blanket around the items and secure the bundle with the diaper pins. Please remove all packaging.

##### **BIRTHING KIT**

- 1 small bar soap 1 oz. to 2 oz. size – do not remove from original packaging; small hotel bars are acceptable
- 1 pair latex, surgical or thin rubber gloves – no kitchen or thick rubber work gloves; gloves are not required to be sterile
- 1 square yard of clear plastic sheeting, must be 4 mil thick; plastic trash bags and shower curtains are not acceptable
- 3 12-inch long pieces of cotton string – must be clean – secure the pieces of string by bundling and tying them together; no yarn
- 1 single-edge razor blade – must be covered in paper or cardboard to keep it from causing injury; regular shaving razors are not acceptable
- 2 receiving blankets 30”x 30” or 32”x 32” size – no thermal or fleece blankets please
- 1 plastic bag – one gallon size; sealable bags only

Assembly Directions: Fold the plastic sheeting and blankets so they will fit easily into the plastic bag. Lay the loose items on top of the blankets and plastic sheeting. Slide all items into the plastic bag. Squeeze as much air out of the bag and then seal it.

##### **HEALTH KIT**

- 1 hand towel 15” x 25” to 17”x 27”; kitchen cleaning and microfiber towels not acceptable
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb - needs to be sturdy; no pocket combs or picks; combs without handles are acceptable
- 1 metal nail file or clipper; no emery boards
- 6 adhesive bandages - ¾” to 1 size common household Band-Aids

- 1 bath size soap – 3 oz. and larger sizes only; all brands are acceptable; do not remove from original packaging
- 1 toothbrush – adult size only; do not remove from original packaging
- 1 plastic bag – one gallon size; sealable bags only
- \$1 to purchase toothpaste

Assembly Directions: Lay out the hand towel flat on a table. Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the wash cloth. Fold over the sides of the hand towel to cover all of the items. Fold over one end of the hand towel so that it covers all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly and roll over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the bundle in the plastic bag and seal the bag. DO NOT INCLUDE TOOTHPASTE! UMCOR is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire. DO NOT PUT SINGLE DOLLAR BILLS in each kit. Toothpaste money must be sent to the Virginia Conference with shipping monies.

All items included in kits must be NEW items. All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items — nothing more.

Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be removed and will delay the shipment. Kits should be packed in boxes with only one type of kit in each box, with the contents clearly written on the outside of the box.

Monetary donations include: \$1 per kit for processing and shipping; \$1 for UMCOR to purchase toothpaste for health kits.

If you prefer UMCOR to provide kits for you, include: \$12 for UMCOR to provide a health kit; \$11 for UMCOR to provide a school kit; \$35 for UMCOR to provide a baby/layette kit; \$8 for UMCOR to provide a birthing kit. If your church has already collected other kits not mentioned here, they will be accepted.

Send monetary donations on one check, payable to “Virginia Conference UMC,” earmarked for “Kits” and mail to: Treasurer, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058. DO NOT PLACE CHECKS INSIDE BOXES. Your checks will be accepted any time prior to Annual Conference. Please make every effort to send your checks no later than Aug. 31. Checks will not be accepted at Annual Conference.

Collection Site: Roanoke Civic Center Parking Lot A (northeast corner of building). COLLECTION HOURS ARE: FRIDAY from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and SATURDAY from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Questions regarding kit contents should go to the conference Center for Justice and Missional Excellence at 1-800-768-6040, ext. 144, or (804) 521-1144, or sent by e-mail to <Mission@vaumc.org>.

Questions about the kit collection site should go to Kits for Conference coordinator, the Rev. Louis Strickler, at (540) 774-8126 or <pastorlouis@woodlawnumc.org>.

(NOTE: An appeal has been made recently by Church World Service regarding a kit drive by that agency. The 2012 Virginia Annual Conference UMCOR Kit drive is not to be confused with that of Church World Service.)

## INDEX

Advance for Christ and His Church, The .....	102
Agenda.....	7
Annual Conference Committees.....	35
Annual Conference Procedure.....	9
Assembly Center, Virginia United Methodist.....	105
Bishop, Greetings from the.....	2
Bishops' Foundation .....	92
Budget, Conference .....	109
Cabinet.....	41
Calendar, Conference .....	123
Campus Ministries/Wesley Foundations .....	84
Chaplain Service Ministries of Virginia, Inc. ....	103
Church Development Team .....	76
Common Table for Church Vitality .....	54
Communications, Virginia United Methodist, Inc.....	95
Credit Union, Virginia United Methodist, Inc. ....	104
<i>Directory of the Ministry</i> Order Form .....	138
Disabilities, Commission on.....	93
Disaster Response Team .....	97
Discipleship, Board of.....	93
Election of Delegates, Guidelines for.....	17
Episcopal Residence Committee .....	40
Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy, Commission on.....	38
Equitable Compensation Commission.....	53
Ferrum College .....	78
Finance and Administration, Council on .....	109
Foundation, United Methodist.....	90
Global Ministries, Board of.....	95
Health and Relief Team .....	97
Heart Havens .....	98
Higher Education Ministries, Board of.....	77
Historical Society, Virginia Conference .....	63
Homes, Virginia United Methodist, Inc.....	99
Housing Development, Virginia United Methodist .....	100
Industrial and Commercial Ministries .....	103
Initiatives of Hope .....	100
<i>Journal</i> Order Form.....	138
Laity, Board of.....	43
Lake Junaluska Assembly.....	118
Leadership Discovery and Development Team .....	47
Mission Opportunities During Annual Conference .....	129
Mission Personnel, Conference Commission on.....	97
Mission Relationship Team .....	96
Nominations.....	47

Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation.....	64
Old Stone Church Foundation .....	65
Ordained Ministry, Board of.....	42
Parents' Room, Guidelines for.....	10
PAUMCS Virginia Chapter .....	46
Pell Foundation.....	78
Pensions and Related Benefits, Virginia United Methodist, Inc. ....	68
Preachers' Relief Society.....	91
Randolph-Macon Academy .....	80
Randolph-Macon College.....	81
Randolph College .....	79
Reporting Guide for Lay Members .....	120
Reserves, Conference .....	115
Resolutions .....	55
Retired Clergy Housing Corp. ....	91
Rules Committee .....	35
Rules of Order .....	28
Rules, Standing.....	10
Shenandoah University.....	81
Site Selection Committee .....	52
Society of St. Andrew .....	104
Speakers.....	4
Statistician .....	107
Status and Role of Women, Commission on .....	39
Structure of the Annual Conference .....	20
Tellers .....	35
Treasurer, Conference.....	108
Trustees, Conference Board of.....	40
United Methodist Family Services .....	99
United Methodist Men.....	44
United Methodist Women.....	45
Virginia Council of Churches.....	118
Virginia Wesleyan College .....	83
Voting Rights Related to Name Badge Colors .....	30
Wellness Ministries.....	65
Wesley Foundations/Campus Ministries .....	84
Wesley Housing Development Corp. ....	100
Wesleyan Studies, Society for .....	92
William Watters Foundation.....	65

## NOTES



NOTES

NOTES

## Order Form for 2012 *JOURNAL* and *DIRECTORY OF THE MINISTRY*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Clergy: Please enter your *NEW* address if you are moving)

### 2012 *DIRECTORY OF THE MINISTRY* ORDERS

One free copy of the *Directory of the Ministry* is sent to all Virginia Conference clergy (active and retired, including lay pastors and diaconal ministers; widows/widowers of clergy are also entitled to a free copy upon request.) Lay members attending Annual Conference do not receive a free copy of the *Directory of the Ministry*. Anyone wishing to purchase a directory in addition to what is automatically sent should fill out this form and drop it off at the Virginia United Methodist Communications display, or mail it to the Communications Office at: P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA, 23058. Payment is requested at the time of purchase. Make checks payable to: "Virginia Conference United Methodist Church" (earmark for "2012 *Directory of the Ministry*"). For credit card orders, call (804) 521-1110 or 1-800-768-6040, ext. 110.

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of the 2012 *Directory of the Ministry* at \$4 each (includes shipping/handling).

Widow/Widower of Clergy: Check here to request a free printed copy of the 2012 *Directory of the Ministry*: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2012 *CONFERENCE JOURNAL* ORDERS

The 2012 *Journal* will be made available in the following ways:

- Posted on the Virginia Conference website <www.vaumc.org> in pdf format.
- Provided as a printed copy upon request at a cost of \$25. Requests for printed copies must be made by Aug. 1, 2012. Payment must be made at the time the order is placed.
- Provided as a CD upon request at a cost of \$10. Payment must be made at the time the order is placed.

Make checks payable to: Virginia Conference United Methodist Church (earmark for "2012 *Journal*"). For credit card orders, call (804) 521-1110 or 1-800-768-6040, ext. 110.

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ regular-bound printed *Journal*(s) at \$25 each (includes shipping/handling).

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ spiral-bound printed *Journal*(s) at \$25 each (includes shipping/handling).

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ *Journal*(s) on CD at \$10 each (includes shipping/handling).

## MORE IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### REGISTRATION HOURS

Friday, June 22: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Laity and Clergy)

After these hours, check at the Pages' Desk for conference packet materials.

Registration is closed during worship times.

**EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER** — (540) 853-1545 This phone is for incoming emergency messages only. Calls must be returned at other phones.

**NEWS MEDIA PHONE NUMBER** — (804) 517-8147 (Director of Communications mobile). No emergency calls can be taken at this number.

**PER DIEM** — By Annual Conference action, retirees, persons receiving their first appointment and selected others are authorized to receive reimbursement for expenses to attend Annual Conference. This reimbursement is not to exceed \$100 per day and is subject to the limitations of conference approved rates. Vouchers are included in the *Book of Reports* packet (also available online at <www.vaumc.org/AC2012> and should be submitted to the Conference Treasurer's Office with appropriate receipts. The Conference Treasurer encourages all reimbursements to be made by direct deposit. Instructions will be attached to the vouchers to make provisions for direct deposit. Vouchers will not be accepted after July 31.

**MESSAGE BOARD RULES** — Persons needing to page someone at the conference must go to the pages' desk. The pages will see that the name of the person being paged is put on the electronic message board. This message will run twice only; however, they will not be shown during worship or major program presentations. The individual will be asked to come to the pages' desk for his or her message. If the message is not retrieved from the pages' desk during that session, the message will be placed on a bulletin board at the information booth. The bulletin board will be cleared of unclaimed messages at the end of each day.

**BANQUETS** — The most current list of banquets is included with the mailing of this *Book of Reports*. Other information may be obtained from the banquet host or from the information desk at the Civic Center.

**FOOD SERVICE** — The Roanoke Civic Center Food and Beverage Services will provide several concession stands with menu options that will include healthy items for snack and meal options as well as a variety of beverages.

**WHEELCHAIR SEATING SECTIONS** — Reserved areas for those who use wheelchairs or scooters will be available within the bar of the conference on both the main arena floor of the Coliseum; on the inner concourse level at Boxes 1, 3, 7 and 9; and in the corners of the inner concourse near boxes 1 and 12. The easiest access into the Coliseum for those with mobility challenges is on the concourse level. There is access to the Coliseum floor from the concourse by chair lift located between gates 1 and 2. An indoor accessible route between the Coliseum (concourse level) and Special Events Center for those who require it will be clearly marked near gate 5.

**ACCESS FOR THOSE WITH HEARING AND VISION CHALLENGES** — A television monitor will be situated in a designated seating section on the floor of the Coliseum to provide Computer Assisted Note-taking (CAN) of the proceedings for persons with vision and hearing challenges. The Phonic Ear Assisted Listening Device System of the Roanoke Civic Center will be available with sign-out of the equipment at the CAN table. American Sign Language interpreters will be provided for all sessions. Braille materials must be requested in advance. Large print materials for the Memorial and Ordination Services will be available at the CAN table. For more information, contact Martha Stokes, 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 153 or 154.

**TO ORDER JOURNALS AND/OR CLERGY DIRECTORIES** — An order form is available on the facing page (pg. 138). Order forms will also be available at the information desk and at the Communications display table in the Special Events Center; or call the Communications Office at 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 110.

