



2016 VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- 1:00 Clergy Session
(Berglund Performing Arts Theatre)
- 1:00 Laity Session
(Coliseum)
- 3:00 Call to Order
Opening Prayer
Welcome and
Organizing Motions
Elections
Announcements
Rules Committee
Commission on Status
and Role of Women
Episcopal Address
Cabinet Report
Property Resolutions
Recognition of New
Faith Communities
Consent Agenda
Equitable Compensation Report
Historical Society Meeting
- 5:00 Recess for dinner
- 7:30 A Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion

Welcome to the 234th Virginia Annual Conference, Berglund Center, Roanoke, Virginia

Kindred Project Retreat offers prayer and fellowship before AC

On Thursday, June 16, 2016, as part of the pre-Annual Conference events, Kindred Project held a retreat in the Annual Conference prayer room as a time for reflection and fellowship.

Led by the Rev. Kimberly Barker-Brugman, Zion UMC in Spotsylvania, and Janie Mitchell, lay leader of Del Ray UMC in Alexandria, the retreat also focused on the topic of Celtic Christianity and the Northumbria Community of England.



The monastery at Iona, Scotland.

Barker-Brugman did a sabbatical year in England where she studied Celtic Christianity; Iona, Scotland; and the Northumbria Community. It was through this experience and the knowledge that she gained that made Barker-Brugman want to share this information in the Virginia Conference.

"I had the idea and I asked at a Kindred Project Leadership team meeting if this would be an interesting event and everyone was very receptive," Barker-Brugman said.

On Thursday, the retreat allowed time for sharing, quiet meditation, Celtic history and communion.

Celtic Christianity

In sharing Celtic history and her time in places like Iona, Barker-Brugman emphasized that these places, through their landscape especially, are all about the journey.

On a Powerpoint display, Barker-Brugman shared visuals of the places that she visited to show attendees unique aspects and share facts about the space.

For instance, in the monastery on the island of Iona, there are plants growing inside of the church that are now endangered which requires vigilance to the

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Annual Conference Special Offering

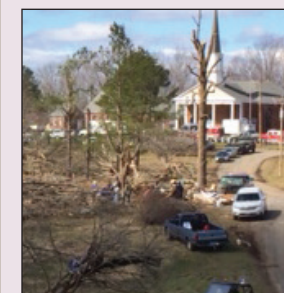
Bishop Young Jin Cho announced that the 2016 Annual Conference offering goal will be \$150,000 and will again focus on both international and Virginia-based mission needs. Contributions will benefit the following ministries:

❖ **Methodist Mission in Cambodia:** We will be offering our continued commitment to the rapid growth and expanding influence of the Methodist Mission in Cambodia through support for training lay and clergy leadership and building churches.

❖ **Methodist Church of Brazil:** These funds will continue to support the Methodist Church of Brazil programs with at-risk children in cities and communities across Brazil.

Methodist Churches in Mozambique: Funds will support our long-term relationship with United Methodist churches in Mozambique, focusing primarily on the vital area of education and development of resources for training laity in two conferences in that country.

❖ **Disaster Relief in Virginia:** Funds are designated to help fund disaster response in our conference, particularly the long-term recovery work required to repair damaged homes, rebuild destroyed homes and provide a caring Christian presence to those who suffered loss when multiple tornadoes struck Virginia in February.



Tornado damage in Virginia.



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amount of air flowing inside and outside the building in order to keep them alive.

As well, the goose is the symbol of the Holy Spirit at Iona. Mitchell related to the group that the goose as the symbol could be for several reasons including the way that geese fly. In their formations, geese expend less energy and fly as a community, a lesson in how people should and can work together

Allowing the Holy Spirit at Annual Conference

This time of prayer, meditation and delving into Celtic Christianity also caused participants to reflect how spirituality works within Annual Conference. Attendees felt that it was important for time during the weekend's proceedings to allow room for the Holy Spirit and to call upon prayer event in the midst of important conference business.

For Barker-Brugman, prayer itself is important but even more so within a group.

"Prayer helps us to listen better, especially if you do a group spiritual direction, and you have that time of silence and 30 or so people. And you'll have five or six people come up with the same thing because of the listening together and the community. That just confirms and affirms for me that that's a message from God coming in that we all need to hear."

Kindred Project

Kindred Project is a group of clergy and laity within the Virginia Conference who join together for prayer as well as sharing in that prayer amongst a group. Barker-Brugman says that the group implements many kinds of prayer including centering prayer and lectio divina.

Barker-Bergman is currently working on a Kindred Project in Fredericksburg. To learn more about Kindred Project and locations near you, visit their website at <http://www.kindredproject.org/>.

What's going on at Annual Conference?



Pub Theology ▲

Pub Theology, a pre-Annual Conference event hosted by the Roanoke District, was held at Center in the Square in Roanoke. This event, also held at Annual Conference 2015, is a fellowship gathering to listen and discuss theology. Moderating and leading the event were Dr. Kendall Soulen, Wesley Seminary; the Rev. Jason Micheli, Aldersgate UMC, Alexandria; and the Rev. Morgan Guyton.

Annual Conference members invited to join youths in Box 9

The 32-member official Virginia Conference youth delegation (two youths elected from each district) will be sitting in Box 9 of the Berglund Center Coliseum during Annual Conference. The box will hold 60 people, so other Annual Conference members (clergy, laity, young, old) are invited to join the young people and enjoy fellowship. From time to time during Annual Conference a few youths will be swapping seats with some of the Dis-

trict Superintendents and District Lay Leaders who sit in the front rows on the main floor of the coliseum.

Communications office selling DVDs of Annual Conference

The conference Communications office is selling DVDs of the 2016 Annual Conference session. Volume 1 will include the Friday evening memorial service with the Rev. Myrtle Frances Hatcher preaching and Bible study led by Dr. L. Gregory Jones, Duke University Vice President and Vice Provost for Global Strategy and Programs. Volume 2 will include the Saturday evening ordination service with preaching by Bishop Mark Webb of the Upper New York Area and a short overview video of the 2016 Annual Conference (suitable for use in making a report on Annual Conference to your local church). Cost is \$20 for Volume 1, \$20 for Volume 2 and \$30 for both volumes. Deadline to order is June 27. The overview video will also be available to view on the

conference Facebook page or YouTube channel, free of charge. DVDs may be ordered at the Communications display at Annual Conference, go to www.vaumc.org/DVD-Sales to order online, or call Pam Culler in the Communications office at (804) 521-1110 or 1-800-768-6040, ext. 110.

Bags will not be distributed at Annual Conference

This year at Annual Conference, members will not receive recyclable bags filled with informational material from United Methodist Communications (UMCom). As a cost-saving measure, UMCom decided to stop providing the bags free of charge to Annual Conferences. A limited supply of empty bags will be available at the Communications display in the Special Events Center. If you need a bag to carry papers and other materials during Annual Conference, you are encouraged to visit the Communications display located in the Exhibition Hall.

