

THE TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD SESSION
VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church

Hampton, Virginia
June 12-15, 2005

BOOK OF REPORTS

Susan S. Garrett, Council Director
Edited by Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.

Annual Conference Official Logo on Cover

The 2005 annual conference logo is based upon the theme, “We Are One in Christ,” which flows out of the conference vision statement. The center cross, composed of all God’s people, suggests unity in Christ. The stained glass window reminds us of the sacraments which continue to connect us to God’s love through Christ: the waters of our baptism and the elements of Communion. The design was created by Virginia United Methodist Communications staff, with the images in the center cross drawn by Barbara Jent, who lives in Chesterfield, Va.

GREETINGS FROM THE BISHOP



Dear Friends in Christ,

I am already anticipating my first experience of conferencing with Virginia United Methodists in Hampton, Virginia, on June 12-15, 2005. As descendants of John Wesley, we are called to “watch over one another in love.” This we will do as we grow into Christ through preaching, worship, conversation, fellowship, participation in mission, and plenary sessions.

Our quadrennial theme will be “Becoming Christ to Others.” Each year we will focus on one aspect of this theme. In 2005, our focus will be “We Are One In Christ.” We will experience this focus in worship and Bible study to ground us as a faith community. We rejoice in the Eucharistic affirmation — “We are one in Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.”

We will also celebrate what God is and will be doing through Virginia United Methodists, particularly in Russia, Mozambique, and Brazil. Our mission offerings will bring hope, healing and the Good News of Christ to all God’s children through our mission partnerships. We will be reminded of the Virginia Initiative on Children and see how our funds and volunteers help change the lives of children in our own communities and introduce them to Christ’s love.

I invite you to join me in prayer for a gathering in Hampton that will glorify God and honor the Christ we all love and serve.

Serving With You,
Charlene P. Kammerer,
Bishop, Virginia Conference

SPECIAL GUESTS

Bishop Peter Weaver, this year's conference preacher, is bishop of the New England Conference and president of the Council of Bishops. He received degrees from West Virginia Wesleyan (B.A.), Drew University (M.Div.) and Boston University (Doctor of Theology). Before being elected to the episcopacy, he served pastorates in the Western Pennsylvania Conference, including two appointments in Pittsburgh. While these congregations grew in service and numbers, the foundation of all ministry was spiritual growth through worship and small groups, leading to a relationship with Jesus Christ, and for hands-on ministry in the community and world.



Elected bishop in 1996, Bishop Weaver served the Philadelphia Area of The United Methodist Church (Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula Delaware Conferences) until 2004. As the conferences developed new strategic plans, missional partnerships among congregations were initiated, congregational revitalization process instituted, youth ministry was significantly expanded, a Bishop's Community leaders forum was held in dozens of communities, programs addressing racism and cultivating unity grew, and creative approaches to evangelism were encouraged. Over 30 new congregations, including multicultural, Latino, Korean, Russian and Vietnamese ones were started. Major new partnerships with Nigeria and Congo conferences were established.

During this time, Bishop Weaver was a part of the Leaders Forum of Philadelphia and a founding member of "Good Schools Pennsylvania," which focused on public education reform.

At the 2004 General Conference, Bishop Weaver was installed as President of the Council of Bishops, which serves over 11 million United Methodists worldwide. In 2004, his residential assignment was changed to serve the Boston Area (New England Conference) of The United Methodist Church.

Bishop Weaver has three daughters, Rebecca Hope, Sarah Joy and Rachel Faith. He also enjoys music, water sports and carpentry. His "life verse" is: "If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation. . ." (2 Corinthians 5:17).



Dr. Jan Love, this year's Bible study leader, began her tenure as chief executive of the Women's Division on Aug. 1, 2004. Known in the organization, the church, ecumenically and academically, Dr. Love brings to the organization a variety of experiences that have formed her as a leader.

Before coming to New York City, Dr. Love served for 22 years on the faculty of the University of South Carolina, teaching courses on religion and world politics, globalization and international political economy. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from Ohio State University.

A prolific speaker and writer, she has written and spoken on issues such as Christian unity, interreligious concerns, issues affecting women, the global church, economics, and racial justice. She has published two books: *Southern Africa in*

SPECIAL GUESTS

World Politics: Local Aspirations and Global Entanglements and *The U.S. Anti-Apartheid Movement: Local Activism in Global Politics*. Along with many academic journals, she's also written numerous articles on religion and politics for publications like *Christian Century*, *The Ecumenical Review*, *Sojourners*, *United Methodist Reporter*, *Zion's Herald*, *New World Outlook*, and *Response*. She has served as a keynote speaker and panelist around The United Methodist Church, at a variety of universities, for other denominations, and at the United Nations.

Her work came full circle when she returned to the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries this year. She served on the Board of Missions, then the Board of Global Ministries, 1970-1976. Dr. Love has been on the board of directors of the United Methodist General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, of Church World Service, and of the World Council of Churches.

In 1975, she was a youth delegate from The United Methodist Church to the World Council of Churches (WCC) Nairobi Assembly. Since then, she has served as a leader in several programs of the council. In 1995, she headed the WCC delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. In 2000, the United Methodist Council of Bishops honored her in the presence of the General Conference for exceptional leadership in ecumenical arenas.

Born and raised in the South, Dr. Love led the Alabama West-Florida Conference Council on Youth Ministries, 1969-71. She now is a member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Columbia, S.C.

Dr. Love has two children — a daughter who is a senior in high school, and a son who is working on a Ph.D. in Philadelphia. She is married to Peter Sederberg, a dean at the University of South Carolina.



Dr. Theodore "Ted" Smith, this year's preacher for the Service of Remembrance, was born and raised in Hampton, Va. As a child he attended Queen Street Baptist Church (the family church). During his adolescence, Ted began to attend Central United Methodist Church and joined Central Church as a teenager. It was during high school that Ted received his call to the ordained ministry. Ted has earned academic degrees from Virginia Wesleyan College, Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and Wesley Theological Seminary. It was at Candler School of Theology that Ted met Teresa Signer (from Monroe, Wisconsin). In 1988, Teresa and Ted were married at the Historic Fort Monroe, Va. Teresa and Ted are both elders in full connection in the Virginia Conference. They have served congregations throughout the Virginia Conference since the late 1980s. The congregations include rural, multiple-church charges; middle-size, urban congregations; and currently, a large suburban congregation. A great source of joy in the Smith household is 10-year-old daughter, Helen Claire Smith. Throughout Ted's ministry, his conference-related service has included the Board of Pensions, the Board of Ministry, delegate to Jurisdictional and General Conferences, Initiatives of Hope, Volunteer In Mission team member and team leader, and the conference youth ministries. Ted's current community service includes election to the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board, appointed by the Virginia Supreme Court. The Disciplinary Board is the state agency that holds Virginia's lawyers accountable for their ethical and moral conduct.

Virginia Annual Conference
June 12-15, 2005
The Coliseum
Hampton, Virginia
Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer, Presiding

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 12

- 3 p.m. Rehearsal for Service of Remembrance
- 4 p.m. Annual Conference Planning Committee Meeting
- 5 p.m. Dinner for New Clergy

SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 12

- 7:30 p.m. A Service of Remembrance
and Holy Communion Rev. Theodore Smith, Preacher
- 8:45 p.m. Ordination Rehearsal
(Boards and agencies will meet as necessary to consider resolutions.)

MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 13

- 8:30 a.m. Clergy Session New Convention Center
- Laity Session Coliseum
- 11 a.m. Call to Order and Prayer Bishop Charlene Kammerer
- Welcome Chaplain, Captain, Joseph G. Fisher
- Organizing Motions Rev. Myrtle Hatcher
- Rules Committee Mr. Dane Mills
- Report of Treasurer Mr. James L. Branscome
- Report of United Methodist Foundation Mr. Craig D. Bell
- Report of Retired Clergy Housing Corp. Rev. Thomas L. Coffman
- Noon Recess for Lunch

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 13

- 2 p.m. Singing Our Faith
- 2:15 p.m. Bible Study Dr. Jan Love
- 3 p.m. Conferencing
- Report of Trustees Mr. Dewitt T. Hartwell Sr.
- Report of the Board of Laity
- Laity Address Mr. Ronald L. Hardman
- United Methodist Women Mrs. Betty Whitehurst
- United Methodist Men Mr. Brian Manwiller
- Ministry of United Methodist Youth Ms. Anne West
- Board of Ordained Ministry Rev. Jeffrey Mickle
- Report of Equitable Compensation Mr. Donald Yesukaitis
- Constitutional Amendments Dr. James C. Logan
- 4:30 p.m. Recess for Dinner

MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 13

- 7:30 p.m. Service of Licensing,
Commissioning, and Ordination Bishop Kammerer, Preacher

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 14

- 8:15 a.m. Singing our Faith
- 8:30 a.m. Bible Study Dr. Jan Love

- 9:15 a.m. Conferencing
 - Recognition of Professional Certification for Local Church Ministry
 - Report of Minutes Committee Mr. David Grimm
 - Board of Pensions Mr. Bobby Thompson
 - Report of District Superintendents Rev. Thomas Joyce
 - Minute Questions
 - Recognition of Presidents of
 - Educational Institutions Rev. Raymond Edmonds
- 11:15 a.m. Worship Bishop Peter Weaver
- Noon Recess for Lunch

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 14

- 1:45 p.m. Singing Our Faith
- 2 p.m. Song by Children from Humble School in Uganda
- 2:10 p.m. Conferencing
 - Report of Council on Ministries
 - Conference Offering
 - Report of the
 - Conferencing Facility Task Force Mr. Minnis Ridenour
 - Report of the Peace and
 - Global Security Task Force Rev. Lee Sheaffer
- 3:45 p.m. A New Commission: Ministry in Retirement
- 4:30 p.m. Recess for Dinner
- 4:30 p.m. Rehearsal for Mission Evening

TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 14

- 7 p.m. Singing Our Faith
- 7:15 p.m. Conferencing
 - Recommendations of Boards & Agencies Rev. Susan S. Garrett
 - Denman Award Rev. Kirk Nave
 - Election of Boards and Agencies Rev. Susan S. Garrett
 - Report of Site Selection Committee Mr. James L. Gresham
 - Report of Statistician Mr. James L. Branscome
 - Historical Society Meeting Mr. Stephen Mansfield
- 8 p.m. Initiatives of Hope Mission Evening
 - “Celebrate! Come Over and Overcome”

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 15

- 8:15 a.m. Singing Our Faith
- 8:30 a.m. Bible Study Dr. Jan Love
- 9:15 a.m. Conferencing
 - Report of Minutes Committee Mr. David Grimm
 - Report of Council on Finance
 - and Administration Mr. Carl L. Moravitz
 - Resolutions Rev. Beth Givens
 - Conference Business
- 11 a.m. Worship Service Bishop Peter Weaver
- Fixing of Appointments

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROCEDURE

Speaking on a Motion and Making a Motion

Many motions important to the 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 the conference is as follows:

1. Be recognized by the presiding officer (usually the bishop) by standing at your seat, raising your hand, and holding a program, *Book of Reports*, or bright orange-colored half-sheet found in your conference packet.
2. When recognized, move to the microphone designated by the presiding officer.
3. Give your name, identify your district, and give the name of your local church.
4. 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 on the carbon available on the edge of the stage in front of the secretary's desk and turned in to the secretary, even if not passed or seconded.)

5. 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 10 minutes unless a shorter time has been established).
6. 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 council director 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, if you wish to speak on the issue.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PARENTS' ROOM AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1. The Parents' Room is provided 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 Virginia Annual Conference has provided minimal furnishings for the Parents' Room (playpens, cribs, bottle warmers, changing tables, rocking chairs, carpet, water). Parents must provide diapers, baby wipes, bottles, and other items as needed.
5. **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.**
6. All users of the Parents' Room are asked to complete an evaluation form.

STANDING RULES

STANDING RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE

As Approved by Virginia Annual Conference at Its Latest Session

There shall be a Rules Committee of nine members (five lay and four clergy) elected by the annual conference for terms of eight years, with the terms of four members expiring at the end of one quadrennium and the terms of five members expiring at the end of the next quadrennium. The Conference Nominating Committee shall nominate members, and the annual conference may make additional nominations from the floor.

The Rules Committee shall review the Plan of Organization and Standing Rules of Order and Procedure between sessions of the annual conference, and make its recommendations for consideration and action by the annual conference. Proposed amendments to the Plan of Organization and Standing Rules of Order and Procedure shall be referred to the Rules Committee with any other matters of parliamentary order or procedure in the business of annual conference.

The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and Procedure of the annual conference shall be those published in the *Journal* 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 Annual Conference — The purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping its local churches for ministry and for providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God. The annual conference shall challenge congregations to reach to the ends of the earth with ministries of love and justice, and to work for the conversion of all God's children.
- B. Membership
1. The membership of this conference shall be composed of
 - a. All clergy of the conference in full connection, probationary members, associate members, affiliate members, and local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge.
 - b. One lay member from every charge of the conference, to be elected as provided in the *Discipline*. Each pastoral charge served by more than one clergy under appointment shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are full-time clergy appointed to that charge.
 - c. The conference president of United Methodist Women.
 - d. The conference lay leader.
 - e. The conference president of United Methodist Men.
 - f. The conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries.
 - g. The president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization.
 - h. The president of the conference youth organization.
 - i. The conference treasurer when he/she is a layperson.
 - j. The chancellor(s) of the annual conference.
 - k. Two young persons between the ages of 12 and 17 from each district, to be elected by the District Council on Ministries with the nominations to be received from the District Council on Youth Ministries.
 - l. Two young persons between the ages of 18 and 30 from each district. At least one shall be a student currently attending a college who has been a member of a church in the Virginia Conference for at least two years. The election of the young adults shall be by the District Council on Ministries with nomination(s) for the student young adult to be received from the district coordinator of Higher Education Ministries, college chaplain(s) and campus minister(s) if such persons exist on the district.
 - m. 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.

- n. The district lay leaders.
 - o. The district presidents of United Methodist Men.
 - p. The district presidents of United Methodist Women.
 - q. The president or chairperson, if a layperson, of the following annual conference agencies: Board of Discipleship; Board of Church and Society; Board of Global Ministries; Board of Higher Education Ministries; Board of Ordained Ministry; Council on Finance and Administration; Commission on Religion and Race; Commission on Status and Role of Women; Committee on Rules; Site Selection Committee; Commission on Equitable Compensation; Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.; Trustees of the Virginia Annual Conference, Inc.; Commission on Archives and History; Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, Inc.; Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc.; Commission on Ethnic Local Church Concerns; the Commission on Disabilities and the Leadership Development Institute.
 - r. By the adoption of Sections (j), (k), (l), (m), (n) and (o), all laypersons 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 the positions in subparagraphs (l), (m) and (n) 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.
 - s. Additional lay members to be elected by the lay members of the district conference of each district in such numbers as to provide the total number of lay members from that district shall bear the same ratio to the total lay membership of the annual conference as the church membership of the district bears to the total church membership of the annual conference. Each district conference shall elect alternates to those elected under this subparagraph 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 layperson shall not be counted in more than one membership position. The Director of Council on Ministries shall furnish to the bishop by September 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.
 - t. All diaconal ministers.
 - u. President of the College Conference Student Fellowship.
 - v. Active Deaconesses under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference.
2. All lay members of the annual conference shall conform to the requirements for membership as required by the 2000 *Discipline* in ¶602.4.
 3. The expenses of attending the annual conference of those members under subparagraphs (f) (g) (h) (i) (j) (m) and (u) shall be borne by the annual conference. The expenses of members attending the annual conference elected in subparagraphs (c), (d), (e), and (q) shall be borne by the respective board, agency, or committee they represent. The expenses of attending annual conference of those persons elected under subparagraphs (k), (l), (n), (o), (p) and (s) shall be arranged for by the districts they represent. The expenses to be paid shall be based on per diem fixed by the Council on Finance and Administration prior to the session of the annual conference.
 4. 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 the preceding paragraph hereof 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 and Jurisdictional Conferences.
 - c. All matters of ordination, character and conference relations of clergy, the latter of which shall be the sole responsibility of clergy members in full connection.
5. The roll of the conference shall be the official registration signed by the members of the conference.
 6. The following persons shall be seated in the conference, and shall be given the privilege of the floor without vote:
 - a. Lay missionaries, both men and women, regularly appointed by the Board of Global Ministries in fields outside the United States.
 - b. Deaconesses serving within the bounds of the annual conference.

C. Officers

1. The Presiding Officer: The presiding officer of this conference shall be the resident bishop of the conference, who shall preside at all sessions of the conference, but who 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 conference floor.
2. Conference Secretary: The secretary of the annual conference shall be elected quadrennially by the conference upon nominations arising from the floor at annual conference preceding 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 conference to handle properly the work of the annual conference.
4. Treasurer: The conference treasurer shall be nominated by the Council on Finance and Administration. He or she shall be elected by the conference at the first session of the 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 shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the annual conference.
5. Statistician: The conference statistician shall be elected by the conference on nomination by the Cabinet at the annual conference preceding 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 conference statistician shall annually nominate a sufficient number of assistant statisticians who shall be elected by the conference for the conference year.
7. Editor of the Conference *Journal*: The conference secretary shall nominate annually the editor of the conference *Journal*, who shall be elected by the conference for the next calendar year. He or she shall be responsible for editing and printing the *Journal of the Annual Conference* and shall be amenable to the conference secretary under the guidance of the *Journal Committee*.
8. Conference Parliamentarian: The bishop may appoint a conference parliamentarian whose duty shall be to advise and counsel concerning rules of order and procedures.

D. Nominations and Election of Boards, Councils, Commissions, and Committees:

1. 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. As initial terms of these individuals expire, 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 laity, representing each district of the Virginia Annual Conference. Representatives of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the Commission on Disabilities, the Commission on Ethnic Local Church Concerns, and the Commission on Religion and Race shall monitor and have voice at these meetings. In order to form the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team initially, each District Nomination Facilitation Committee shall forward to the co-chairs two names (one clergy, one laity) for possible selection. The co-chairs shall select as an initial member of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team one of the two persons whose names were forwarded from each of the District Nomination Facilitation Committees. As initial terms of these district representatives expire, each District Nomination Facilitation Committee will name one replacement individual to serve on the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team, clergy to replace laity, laity to replace clergy. In addition, the co-chairs will place the initial membership of the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team into four Classes. Class I will consist of six district representatives, each of whom will serve a term of three years. Class II will consist of four district representatives and one bishop appointed representative, each of whom will serve a term of four years. Class III will consist of four district representatives, each of whom will serve a term of five years. Class IV will consist of four district representatives and one bishop appointed representative, 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 for more than four consecutive years. 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.

This change will take place at the end of the 2004 annual conference session.

2. There shall be on each district a Nominations Facilitation Committee (NFC) composed of the district superintendent as chair; the district lay leader; president of United Methodist Men; president of United Methodist Women; and president of United Methodist Youth; a college chaplain or a campus minister (applies only to districts with Wesley Foundation or ecumenical campus ministry program), 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 districts who could be qualified nominees for the various boards and agencies of the 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. Each board, council, commission and committee of the 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 needing to be present in individuals nominated to serve and the length of service expected,
 - c. Demographic information about its current makeup (e.g. number of men, women, ethnic representation, district representation, etc.), and
 - d. 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 the co-chairs.

4. The Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team shall annually or quadrennially, as set forth by Disciplinary provision or Plan of Organization and Standing Rules of Order and Procedure, nominate the membership of the boards, councils, commissions, and committees of the conference. Nomination for boards and other agencies shall be published in the *Book of Reports*.
5. 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 consultant of the conference Nominating Committee 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 annual conference shall fill the vacancy.
6. At each annual charge conference the elder presiding at the charge conference shall ask if the nominations and personnel committee has any names to recommend for conference boards, councils, commissions or committees. Such names shall be given to the district NFC.
7. Note should be taken by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team for adequate representation from minorities.
8. 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, except that in the case of the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, 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 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 on an agency as either a regular or co-opted member shall count on the eight-year time limit for consecutive service.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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 90 days after adjournment. Nominations shall come from a nominating committee appointed by the president of the preceding agency and/or from the floor. The organizational or first meeting of each agency shall be convened by a person designated by the bishop. 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 president of the preceding agency and/or from the floor.

12. There shall be a Resolutions Committee of five persons elected annually by the conference upon nomination by the Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team.
13. For those sessions of the annual conference where there is no election of delegates to General and 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 layperson, from each district. Each time a count vote is called for in the proceedings of the business of the conference, 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 AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Reports

1. Agencies shall submit annual reports, typed/printed in triplicate, to the designated person before the date set annually by the Conference Council on Ministries. The council director shall mail the *Book of Reports* to each clerical and lay member of annual conference at least 30 days before the opening session of annual conference, printing and mailing at conference expense.
2. 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 conference.
3. Persons proposing amendments to any report must submit them in writing to the secretary upon presentation to the conference.
4. 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 to conference at the opening session, but not to be considered by the conference before the morning session of the second day of conference.
5. When the 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. The *Book of Reports* shall include resolutions presented to annual conference. Urgent resolutions arising after publication of the *Book of Reports* shall be submitted to the council director to be considered as emergency resolutions up to 14 days prior to the opening session of conference, and to be provided in writing to members at conference registration.
2. The council director shall refer resolutions related to the work of a conference agency to that agency for consideration and report at 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, after which a member of annual conference who has signed the resolution shall have a maximum of five minutes to address the resolution, which shall then be subject to floor debate and action. Voting on resolutions will be on the resolution itself, and not on the recommendation of 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 council director has not referred a resolution to another agency for consideration, it shall be referred to the Resolutions Committee.
3. 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" language of a resolution will not become part of the conference minutes or quoted in recitals of conference action, unless specifically requested and approved by majority vote of the annual conference after floor discussion.

- C. Dissemination of Information
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 Funds
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. Additions 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 AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCES

- A. We are an inclusive and pluralistic church. We desire to have a delegation that is representative of the entire conference considering such factors as sex, age, race, and ethnic background and geography, and at the same time we should bear in mind that it is desirable to have persons who will capably represent the conference and will be willing and able to meet the responsibilities such representation will impose upon them, particularly to the General Conference. It is urged these factors be kept in mind by the annual conference members as they cast their ballots for both lay and clergy.
- B. Clergy and lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be elected at the session of the annual conference held in the calendar year preceding the session of the General Conference.
 - 1. Clergy and lay delegates elected to the preceding General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be the delegates to special sessions of the respective conferences.
 - 2. The number of clergy and lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be that number of delegates to such conferences respectively as furnished by the secretary of the General Conference.
 - 3. 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 Jurisdictional Conference delegates who shall be reserves to General Conference in the order of their election. After the authorized number of Jurisdictional 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.
- 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 and Jurisdictional Conferences. Each ministerial member in full connection (active and retired) shall be entitled to vote for clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. 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 and Jurisdictional Conferences 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 and Jurisdictional Conferences, 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

1. Nominations for lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences 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 which shall be submitted by the superintendent provided that additional nominations at the district conference may be made from the floor, and provided further 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. 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 conference. District nominees need not be from the district which nominates them.
3. The lay members of the following agencies of the annual conference may also nominate one additional delegate: Board of Church and Society, Board of Discipleship, Board of Global Ministries, Board of Higher Education Ministries, Board of Laity, Commission on Ethnic Local Churches, Commission on Disabilities, Commission on Religion and Race, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Council on Age Level and Family Ministries, Council on Finance and Administration, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc., and Virginia United Methodist Pensions and Related Benefits. In addition to the aforementioned nominees, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries shall nominate one delegate, and the Virginia United Methodist Student Movement shall nominate one college delegate.
4. All nominees shall have been members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding their nomination and must be members of churches in the Virginia Annual Conference. All nominations shall include the nominee’s name, picture not to exceed 1½”x2½”, address, phone number, 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 Conference Council Director. 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 conference at which voting is to take place.

E. There shall be an Annual Conference Committee on Lay Nominations to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

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 January 15 of the year of election submit to this committee in care of the Council Director completed forms for all nominees from the district. The committee shall then forward a list of all nominees to the agencies named in paragraph D3. Each agency of the annual conference shall be responsible for forwarding to the committee a completed nomination form no later than March 1. The committee shall then compile all nomination forms alphabetically according to the 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. At the annual conference at which delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences are to be elected, the lay nominees shall be those persons named on the nomination forms compiled by the Annual Conference Committee on Lay Nominations to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Their names shall be contained in the materials furnished each clergy and 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. No speeches may be made or printed materials distributed on the floor of the Conference on behalf of any nominee or write-in candidate.

F. Electronic Balloting Counting Procedures

1. Ballot counting shall employ the use of electronic means. The Rules Committee shall determine the electronic methods and equipment and procedures to be used and shall do so in consultation with the chief lay and clergy tellers.
2. 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/mechanical- means of balloting for any reason cannot be accomplished, then the electronic ballots shall be counted by hand.
3. 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. The presiding officer shall designate the area of the 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 conference and wearing the proper badge.
5. Immediately prior to the taking of a ballot, the presiding officer shall have all clergy and lay members eligible to vote to stand and the tellers shall distribute ballots to and collect them from only those persons eligible to vote.
6. 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. 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 Jurisdictional Conference.
8. On the first ballot for both General and Jurisdictional Conferences, 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.). 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 Jurisdictional Conference, when all names who have received 10 or more votes on the preceding ballot shall be read or distributed.
9. Upon completion of the counting and recording of a ballot, the chief teller shall seal the ballots and deliver them to the conference secretary. The conference secretary shall retain all ballots until the adjournment of the annual conference after which they shall be destroyed.

G. Tellers

1. The conference Nominating Committee 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 and Jurisdictional Conferences. The conference Nominating Committee shall additionally appoint four (4) clergy and four (4) 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. All expenses incident to the balloting for and election of delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference shall be borne by the annual conference.
- H. The expenses of two clergy and two lay alternates to General Conference and to 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 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 and 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 66th 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 conference.

The 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 conference immediately before they are to be cast. A member of the 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. STRUCTURE OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

[Most references are to the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, and each agency should refer to the appropriate paragraphs of the 2000 *Book of Discipline* concerning its organization, function, and responsibilities.]

A. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOARDS

There shall be seven annual conference program boards, namely: the Board of Discipleship, the Board of Church and Society, the Board of Global Ministries, the Board of Higher Education Ministries, the Board of Ordained Ministry, Leadership Development Institute, and the Board of Laity. Each board shall meet at least annually.

1. MEMBERSHIP

Board membership shall be as follows: the Board of Church and Society; the Board of Global Ministries, and the Board of Discipleship shall each be composed of 40 members; the Board of Higher Education Ministries shall be composed of 20 members. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall be composed of 58 persons nominated by the bishop and elected by the annual conference at the beginning of each quadrennium plus the conference registrar and a district superintendent appointed by the bishop. 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. All program board members shall be assigned to a division. 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. Local pastors shall be counted against clerical quotas. No elected member may serve more than eight consecutive years except as authorized by the *Discipline* or in I.D.8 of the Standing Rules of Order and Procedure. 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 whose membership is described above, the presiding bishop and the Conference Council Director are members of all boards, agencies and commissions with vote. 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 president of the conference organizations of UMMen, UMW, UMYA and the CCYM, 18 district lay leaders, and five clergy and seven other members elected by the annual conference (assuring that there are, on the board, at least two men, two women and two youth).

2. ORGANIZATION

The boards shall organize in the several divisions listed below to carry out their respective functions. Each member of a board shall serve on one division. 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 Council on Ministries shall be obtained by the board. Division members at large are not members of the board.

3. FUNCTION

The conference boards will provide consultative service and resources to the local church, the District Council on Ministries, the annual conference and the Council on Ministries. Each board will make program recommendations to the Council on Ministries, will be responsible for the essential functions of the area of concern assigned by the Council on Ministries 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 represented at and is amenable to the Council on Ministries.

4. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

a. Church and Society

The Board of Church and Society in cooperation with the General Board of Church and Society and the Conference Council on Ministries shall develop programs on Christian social concern within the bounds of the conference. To discharge its responsibilities it shall divide its membership into three divisions: which so far as practical shall parallel the divisions of the General Board of Church and Society.

b. Discipleship

The Board of Discipleship, in cooperation with the General Board of Discipleship and the Conference Council on Ministries shall develop programs which will assist districts and local churches in their effort to win persons as disciples of Jesus Christ and to help these persons to grow in their understanding of God so that they may respond in faith and love, to the end that they may know who they are and what their human situation means, increasingly identifying themselves as children of God and members of the Christian community, to live in the Spirit of God in every relationship and to fulfill their common discipleship in the world. To discharge its responsibilities the board shall divide its membership into four divisions: (1) Division of Education and the Local Church (including Camps and Conferences); (2) Division of Evangelism; (3) Division of Spiritual Formation; and, (4) Division of Worship. A Committee on Spiritual Formation shall be formed within the Board of Discipleship from its membership. This committee will be responsible for the following tasks: (1) to define spiritual formation in the context of Wesleyan theology and piety; (2) to relate to The Upper Room Academy of Spiritual Formation; (3) to relate to all of the divisions of the Board of Discipleship to encourage the development of a comprehensive plan of spiritual formation for pastors and laity; and (4) to recommend to the Board of Discipleship appropriate changes in the structure of the board of the continuing development of a plan of spiritual formation for the members and congregations of the Virginia Conference.

c. Global Ministries

The Board of Global Ministries in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries and the Conference Council on Ministries shall develop programs to assist district and local churches to carry out all phases of the work of the church in mission and of church extension within the annual conference. There shall be a conference secretary of Global Ministries appointed annually by the bishop upon recommendation of the Board of Global Ministries, subject to confirmation by the annual conference.

To discharge its responsibilities it shall divide its membership into four divisions: (1) Division of Missions, Education, and Cultivation; (2) Division of Conference Parish and Community Development (including church extension and parish and community development); (3) Division of Christian Unity and Inter Religious Concerns; and (4) Division of Health and Welfare Ministries (including Golden Cross, United Methodist Family Services, and United Methodist Homes, Inc.)

d. Higher Education Ministries

The Board of Higher Education Ministries, in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Conference Council on Ministries, shall develop programs to provide for higher education and ministry functions as set forth in Par. 1405 of the 2000 *Discipline*, and to perform the responsibilities in regard to education and professional campus ministries as set forth in Par. 631 of the 2000 *Discipline*.

e. Laity

The Board of Laity shall act as an advocate for the Virginia Conference laity in all forums of the annual conference. The Board of Laity will develop those required programs which cannot be adequately developed within other boards and agencies of the annual conference. 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. (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 annual 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 the Virginia Conference laity through example, exhortations, 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) develop organizations of UMMen, UMW, UMY, and UMYA in each local church in the Virginia Conference. The conference Board of Laity shall nominate annually to the annual conference for election a layperson to be the conference lay leader for the ensuing year. Any person elected to the office of conference lay leader shall not be eligible to serve more than six consecutive terms.

f. Ordained Ministry

The Board of Ordained Ministry, in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Conference Council on Ministries, 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.

g. Age Level and Family Ministries

There shall be a Council on Age Level and Family Ministries which shall serve the local church, the District Council on Ministries, and the other boards and agencies of the conference in: (1) interpreting the needs of persons at various life stages; (2) promoting and assisting in the programming of the boards of agencies in meeting those needs; and (3) offering programs, where appropriate, to meet the needs of persons at all stages of life.

(1) Function: To serve as advocates in interpreting the needs of individuals and of churches in the area of age level and family concerns; and, in planning programs, both as a council and in cooperation with appropriate boards and agencies, in helping to meet those needs.

- (2) Membership: The Council on Age Level and Family Ministries shall consist of 20 elected members (half lay and half clergy) and 20 co-opted members. The chairperson, vice chairperson and director of the Council on Ministries shall be members ex officio.
 - (3) Organization: There shall be four areas of the council: Children, Youth, Adult and Family. Each member of the Council on Age Level and Family Ministries shall be assigned to one of the areas.
 - (4) Executive Committee: The Executive Committee of the Council on Age Level and Family Ministries would consist of officers of the council (chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary), area chairpersons, appointed staff, and one representative of each related agency, selected by that agency (Discipleship, Church and Society, Global Ministries, and any other agency deemed appropriate).
 - (5) Conference Relationships: The chairperson of the Council on Age Level and Family Ministries and the four area chairpersons shall be members of the Conference Council on Ministries. The chairperson of the Council on Age Level and Family Ministries shall serve on the executive committee of the Conference Council on Ministries.
- h. Leadership Development Institute
- The Leadership Development Institute shall provide training in stewardship, evangelism, and spiritual renewal. It shall coordinate and/or provide for training events, consultations, and research which will enable the churches to address identified needs. The membership will include: six members nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the annual conference; a member each from the Division of Stewardship, Board of Laity, the Division of Evangelism, Board of Discipleship, the Bishop's Cabinet, the Division of Parish and Community Development, Board of Global Ministries, the Continuing Education Committee, and Board of Ordained Ministry; one youth; one college student; and six members elected by the Leadership Development Institute for special skills and expertise. The Bishop, Council Director and Dean of LDI shall be ex officio members.

B. OTHER CONFERENCE AGENCIES AND CLERGY SUPPORT SERVICES

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 an annual conference Historical Society. The duties and responsibilities of the commission shall be as set forth in the *Book of Discipline*. (See paragraph 638, 2000 *Book of Discipline*.) Members of the annual conference shall be members of the Historical Society, which will elect 48 members to the commission who will also serve as the directors of the annual 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 Committee on Nominations 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 with a working relationship through the Conference Council on Ministries for programming purposes.
3. Charge Boundaries, Interagency Commission on. There shall be an Interagency Commission on Charge Boundaries with membership as follows: one clergy (not a district superintendent) named by the bishop's Cabinet, who shall be the chairperson; one person named by the Commission on Equitable Compensation from among its membership; one person named by the Board of Global Ministries from the membership of the Division of Conference Parish and Community Development; one person named by the Board of Discipleship from the Division of Evangelism; one member from the

Board of Laity and a representative of the Cabinet without vote. The commission shall publicize to the districts and churches the standards adopted from time to time by the Virginia Conference regarding charge formation, and population, geographical, and other data related to charge formation and shall encourage compliance with these standards. Prior to the fall meet of the Equitable Compensation Commission, the Interagency Commission on Charge Boundaries shall identify the charges seeking equitable compensation which do not meet the minimum standards adopted by the annual conference for a full-time pastoral appointment, and shall make recommendations concerning full- or part-time status to the Equitable Compensation Commission. These recommendations shall be considered before any decision to grant equitable compensation is made by the Equitable Compensation Commission. The Council on Ministries shall provide the commission with staff services needed.

4. Communications, Virginia United Methodist, Inc. There shall be a Board on Communications which is to serve all of the agencies of the conference in the area of communication. It shall be administratively related to and amenable to the Conference Council on Ministries. The board and/or its subunits may be incorporated. These corporations shall be successor corporations to the corporations whose functions are assigned to them.
 - 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 clerical) 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 directors shall be the conference council director of the annual conference Council on 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 Annual Conference or a ministerial member of the Virginia Annual Conference. There shall be a president, vice president and secretary.
 - c. Organization: There shall be the following committees:
 - (1) 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.
 - (2) Program Committees are the following: Communication Education, Print Media (including a United Methodist Publishing House liaison), Electronic Media, Interpretation, Media Center, Computer and Public Relations. Each member of the board shall serve on at least one of these committees.
 - (3) 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.
 - (4) Special Committees may be appointed by the president from time to time to function in behalf of specific projects or activities of the corporation.

5. Disabilities, Commission on.
The commission shall consist of 18 members, half clergy and half laity. 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 paragraph 634 of the 2000 *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 Nominating Committee 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 *Book of Discipline*. (See paragraph 623, 2000 *Book of Discipline*.) It shall receive all requests from or on behalf of all pastoral charges for aid to be used solely for ministerial 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 Local Church Concerns, Commission on.
Membership shall be as outlined on page 221 of the 1986 *Journal*.
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 *Book of Discipline*. (See paragraphs 609-617, 2000 *Book of Discipline*), provided that membership of the council shall be composed of five clergy, five lay women, and five lay men nominated by the conference Committee on Nominations.
10. Foundation, United Methodist. The trustees of the United Methodist Foundation shall be elected and discharge their responsibilities pursuant to the charter as 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 Division of Ordained Ministry of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, two representatives from the Virginia United Methodist Pensions and Related Benefits, 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 *Book of Discipline*. (See paragraph 648, 2000 *Book of Discipline*.)
12. Investigation, Committee on. There shall be a Committee of Investigation nominated, elected, and with duties as set forth in the *Book of Discipline*. (See paragraph 2703, 2000 *Book of Discipline*.)
13. Minutes, Committee on. There shall be a Committee on Minutes consisting of seven members nominated by the bishop's Cabinet for a term of eight years, provided that the term of four members shall expire at the end of one quadrennium and the other three shall expire at the end of the next quadrennium. At least three members shall be laypersons 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. Nominations, Committee on. (See I.D.1 for composition of Committee on Nominations.)
15. Pensions and Related Benefits, Virginia United Methodist.
This agency, which is incorporated as Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., shall be composed of 30 members nominated by the Committee on Nominations 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 (2000 *Book of Discipline*, paragraph 636.2a). 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 shall elect 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 2000 *Book of Discipline* (see paragraph 636). In addition, it shall administer the conference program for ministers' supplemental benefits including the various insurance programs, shall study on a continuing basis the problems of ministerial disability making recommendations relative to these problems as needed, provide for a continuing pastoral ministry to disabled ministers.

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. Religion and Race, Commission on.

Pursuant to par. 640 of the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, there shall be a Virginia Annual Conference Commission on Religion and Race amenable to the Council on Ministries. The basic membership of the commission shall consist of eight clergy and eight laypersons elected at large upon nomination of the conference Nominating Committee and/or from the floor of annual conference. The district coordinators for Religion and Race shall be members ex officio of the commission with both voice and vote. The bishop may appoint to the commission a district superintendent to serve as Cabinet representative with voice but not vote.

18. Retired Clergy Housing Corporation of the Virginia Conference.

This is an incorporated body whose purpose is to provide as far as possible homes for superannuated preachers of the Virginia Annual Conference.

19. Rules and Plan of Organization, Committee on. There shall be a Committee on Rules and Plan of Organization consisting of nine members elected by the conference on nomination of the conference Committee on Nominations for a term of eight years, provided that the term of four members shall expire at the end of one quadrennium and the term of the other five members shall expire at the end of the next quadrennium. Five members of the committee shall be laypersons and four members shall be from the clergy. This committee shall review the Plan of Organization and Standing Rules of Order and Procedure between sessions of the annual conference and make its recommendations for consideration and action by the annual conference. To this committee shall be referred any amendments to the Plan of Organization and Standing Rules of Order and Procedure.

20. Site Selection, Committee on. There shall be a Committee on Site Selection consisting of four members, one half laypersons and one half clergy, elected on nomination of the conference Committee on Nominations for a term of eight years. The committee shall be divided into two classes with the term of one class to expire at the end of one quadrennium and 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 and assist host districts in making arrangements.

21. 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 Council on Ministries. The membership shall consist of one representative from each district plus six persons at large elected by the annual conference. Any member of the annual conference who is a member of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women shall also be a member. 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.

22. 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 *Book of Discipline*. (See paragraphs 2512-2516, 2000 *Book of Discipline*.)

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 the one year 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 limitation. Existing task forces at the time this legislation is adopted are retroactively made amenable to the four year limitation. 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 conference Council on Ministries 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 each year, 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 Council on Ministries for its recommendation; (2) upon recommendation of the Council on Ministries, 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 Council on Ministries 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 Council on Ministries and the board or agency for their recommendations prior to action by the annual conference, provided, however, that internal change below the division level shall be the responsibility of each board.

VI. THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

- A. Each district within the Virginia Conference shall hold in accordance with the 2000 *Discipline*, paragraphs 653 and 654, a session of the district conference at least once during the annual conference year.
- B. The membership of each district conference shall be composed of the following: all ordained clergy, licensed local pastors, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses 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 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; the chairperson of the district Council on Ministries or equivalent body, the district stewards, 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, the president of the district United Methodist Youth, the president of the district United Methodist Young Adults, the district coordinators of children, youth, young adult, adult, 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.

VII. MEMBERS OF GENERAL BOARDS OR AGENCIES

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

VIII. RULES OF ORDER AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

- A. When the chairperson stands and calls the conference to order, no member shall speak, address the chair, or stand while the chairperson stands.
- B. The conference shall fix the voting area of the conference at the opening business session and voting on all 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 manned 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 for all lay, clergy, probationary, and associate members and all youth members, members on special assignment, and all other persons entitled by the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order to be within the voting area of the conference.
- D. Members of the conference and others entitled to be seated within the voting area of the conference shall be furnished identification badges as follows:
 - Lay members (including diaconal ministers) — green
 - Clergy (licensed, commissioned, ordained) — white
 - All others entitled to be seated on the floor, lay supply pastors, honorable location, ministers of other denominations serving ecumenical parishes in Virginia, retired full members of other annual conferences, and official guests — red (no voice or vote)During balloting, ballots will be distributed to and collected from only those persons wearing proper identification badges.
- E. 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 from their seats and stand until counted.
- F. No member who has the floor may be interrupted except for a question on the matter under consideration, or a breach of order, or a misrepresentation, or 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. No member shall speak a second time on the same question if any member who has not spoken desires the floor, no more than twice on the same subject under the same motion, no longer than five minutes. This five minute period may be limited or extended by a two thirds vote of the conference at any time.
- H. A member claiming the floor at any time 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 his privilege.
- I. Before a vote's 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. For the benefit of the secretary, and for the sake of clarification, motions, including amendments, shall be presented in writing.
- K. The operation of any of the provisions of the Plan of Organization or of these Rules of Order and Procedure may be suspended at any time by a two thirds vote of the conference.
- L. The Plan of Organization 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. *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall apply to any and all situations not covered elsewhere by these rules.

(AC Approved Changes Made 7/26/04)

VOTING RIGHTS RELATED TO NAME BADGE COLORS

Green (lay vote with full lay voting rights, ¶602.4)

- Lay Members
- At-Large District Lay Members
- District and Conference Lay Leaders
- Conference and District Presidents of United Methodist Men
- Conference and District Presidents of United Methodist Women
- Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries
- President of Conference Young Adult Organization
- President of Conference Youth Organization
- Chair, Conference College Student Organization
- District Youth and Young Adult Members
- Diaconal Ministers
- Deaconesses (see also ¶1313.5)
- Home Missionaries
- Retired Diaconal Ministers

White (Ordained and Full Connection with full voting rights, ¶33 and ¶602.1a)

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

Note: Elders and Deacons on leave of absence may not be elected or serve as delegates to General or Jurisdictional Conferences (¶354.1).

- RM 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 (¶419.2, *1992 Discipline* and 602.1c, *2004 Discipline*)
- PM Probationary Member under 1992 Discipline (¶413.2, *1992 Discipline*)
- PD Probationary Deacon (¶327.2 and 602.1b)
- PE Probationary Elder (¶327.2 and 602.1b)
- EP Full member other denomination serving UM Probation (¶347.3b, ¶327.2)
- DP Deacon recognized from other denomination serving UM Probation (¶347.3 and 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)
- RL Retired Local Pastor **who is appointed** (¶320.5)
- RA Retired Associate Member
- RP Retired Probationary Member

White (voice but no vote)

- SP Student Local Pastor (¶316.6, 318.3 & 5)
- AF Affiliate Member, non-voting (¶334.4)
- RL Retired Local Pastor (¶320.5)
- OE Elder Member of other Annual Conference (¶346.1)
- OA Associate Member of other Annual Conference (¶346.1)
- OP Probationary Member of other Annual Conference (¶346.1)
- RAF Retired Affiliate Member (¶334.4)

Red (no voice or vote)

- SY Lay Supply
- HL Honorable Location
- 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

2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Committee on Minutes

Clergy:

Sallye Bowen (12)
Vernell Carter (08)
Susan Cutshaw (12)
Douglas W. Kanney (08)

Lay:

Elaine Branch (12)
Bonnie Butler (12)
David Grimm, *Chair* (08)

Committee on Resolutions

Clergy:

Kiok Chang Cho
Beth Givens, *Chair*
David Jarvis
Larry Lenows

Lay:

N.L. Bishop

Committee on Memoirs

Clergy:

Paul Bailey
Sara Manner
Earl Martin
John Peters
Roy White
Ed Wright, *Co-Chair*
Elizabeth Wright, *Co-Chair*

Tellers

Chief Teller – Shelia Smith

Lay:

Alexandria District	Suzanne Boltz
Arlington District	Laura Bishop
Ashland District	Adam Kelchner
Charlottesville District	Sue Lewis
Danville District	Harrison Donovan
Eastern Shore District	Eric Banks
Farmville District	John Morris
Harrisonburg District	Marsha Gordon
Lynchburg District	James Nash
Norfolk District	Joanne McClung
Peninsula District	Christopher Bush
Petersburg District	Victoria Adams
Portsmouth District	Angelia Garrett
Rappahannock District	Charles Clements
Richmond District	Karen Albro
Roanoke District	Karen Garrett
Staunton District	Carl Mann
Winchester District	Shelia Smith

Clergy:

Michael Nelson
Linda Monroe
Rick Griffith
James Hassmer
George Gorman
Glenda T. Turlington
Albert M. Davis
R. Douglas Gunsalus
Alan Murphy
Robert J. Robertson
Carol Bookwalter
David Holbert
Gary Hartman
William E. Olewiler
Chris Bennett
Kwang Ho Lee
Deborah Koontz
John Lock

COMMITTEE ON RULES

The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and Procedure of the annual conference which were published in the 2004 *Journal* will be the rules in effect for the 2005 annual conference.

In order to incorporate the changes to the 2004 *Discipline* adopted by General Conference, as well as the changes brought about by "Equipping The Church," the Common Table Task Force Organizational Plan presented to the 2004 annual conference, the Rules Committee is extensively rewriting the rules. Because various boards and agencies are themselves not yet finished making their own organizational changes, which must be adopted in the new rules, we are not going to publish the proposed new rules in the 2005 *Book of Reports*.

Instead, we will print the new rules as an addendum to be mailed with the *Book of Reports*. Once the changes are adopted by the annual conference, they will become the rules in effect for annual conference beginning in 2006.

K. Dane Mills, *Chair*

CONFERENCE TREASURER

Church Receipts, December 31, 2004

	RECEIPTS <u>2003</u>	RECEIPTS <u>2004</u>	PERCENT <u>CHANGE</u>
World Service & Confer Benevolences	5,583,364	5,692,983	1.96%
Episcopal Fund	719,508	666,530	-7.36%
Equitable Salary Fund	745,298	775,912	4.11%
Retired, Disabled, Widowed	3,731,843	4,080,383	9.34%
Conference Health Plan	3,891,453	4,309,593	10.75%
Dist Superintendents Fund	1,698,794	1,822,130	7.26%
Conference Services Fund	1,040,571	1,171,776	12.61%
Educational Fund	1,474,591	1,477,716	0.21%
Ministerial Education Fund	954,901	998,995	4.62%
Church Extension & Develop. Fund	1,123,273	1,127,731	0.40%
Black College Fund	385,693	400,039	3.72%
Africa University Fund	88,044	90,456	2.74%
General Connectional Fund	439,461	455,667	3.69%
Interdenom Cooperation Fund	77,081	75,857	-1.59%
Human Relations Day Offering	10,143	10,951	7.97%
One Great Hour of Sharing	82,104	104,099	26.79%
World Communion Fund	26,671	29,448	10.41%
United Methodist Student Day	20,290	20,686	1.95%
Peace with Justice Sunday	8,619	10,502	21.85%
Native American Ministries Sunday	21,724	21,551	-0.80%
World Missions	676,189	726,962	7.51%
United Methodist Committee on Relief	265,011	927,402	249.95%
Virginia Conference Advance Specials	853,121	721,955	-15.37%
World Hunger	54,933	61,049	11.13%
Christian Education Fund	12,844	9,947	-22.56%
Youth Service Fund	52,520	46,221	-11.99%
Samaritan Fund - Homes	104,378	98,756	-5.39%
Virginia UM Family Services	145,627	165,805	13.86%
Commission On Disabilities	34,824	47,395	36.10%
Heart Havens	60,389	121,863	101.80%
Other Funds	<u>25,750</u>	<u>46,338</u>	<u>79.95%</u>
	<u>24,409,012</u>	<u>26,316,698</u>	<u>7.82%</u>

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

I am pleased to report to you on the work of the United Methodist Foundation of the Virginia Conference.

Our work is in three areas:

- 1) assist local churches in developing endowment programs,
- 2) assist individuals in implementing gifts for endowment,
- 3) offer local churches, and agencies and institutions of the church, the opportunity to **invest funds through the foundation.**

More and more churches are establishing endowment programs and are benefiting from the income from those endowments. We suggest that churches have a **General Endowment** Fund and also offer the opportunity for larger, designated **Named Endowment** Funds to enhance and expand the ministry of a local congregation or to assist an agency or institution of the church. The foundation will provide documents to establish a Local Church Endowment Committee and guidelines for administering an endowment program in the local church. The executive director is available to consult with church leaders in this process.

Six new Charitable Gift Annuities have been established by individuals through the foundation for various conference related causes this year and three new Endowment Funds have been set up to be administered by the foundation. The foundation is now administering charitable gift annuities or charitable trusts to benefit 18 different United Methodist-related causes for 20 individuals totaling \$2.1 million. I am available to work with individuals in arranging these **gift opportunities** to benefit a local church or an agency or institution of the conference.

The foundation is now administering over \$25 million for Virginia United Methodist causes. We offer five investment options including a large cap growth equity fund, a blended equity fund, a diversified fund, a bond fund and a money market fund. Returns for 2004 for the four managed funds were: large cap growth equity 4.10 percent; blended equity 7.80 percent, balanced fund (now the Diversified Fund) 6.40 percent, and bond fund 4.00 percent.

Some 70 conference endowment funds are being administered by the foundation and last year these endowments provided more than \$122,000 for missions, evangelism, ministerial education, new church development, and other causes.

The foundation has been active in efforts to encourage education and training in financial stewardship and hosted a workshop in February for District Stewardship coordinators.

I wish to express appreciation to Craig D. Bell who is completing his term this year as chairperson of the board of directors of the Virginia United Methodist Foundation. He has given strong leadership.

You may contact us at 1-800-768-6040, or (804) 521-1100, ext. 120 or 122, or e-mail <Foundation@vaumc.org>.

James R. Bergdoll, *President and Executive Director*

RETIRED CLERGY HOUSING CORPORATION

We are now in our 73rd year of serving the needy retired ministers of the Virginia Conference. The year 2004 has been another busy one as we strive to complete the goals established by our board five years ago. Four units have been purchased in a retirement section in the Bell Creek development just off I-295 in the Richmond area which meets the needs of providing handicapped facilities throughout, lawn maintenance programs, fitness equipment and programs, plus a minimum outside care. These, along with the other units we have purchased or built through these last five years, will adequately meet the needs our retired brothers and sisters may

have through their retirement years. Homes on Selby Place in Norfolk, in Bridgewater and Richmond have been sold which assists in purchasing or building these modern up-to-date facilities.

As with any property, there are always break downs with furnaces, replacing carpets or tiles, painting, etc. These are the kinds of upkeep any homeowner encounters year after year. In our case this is multiplied by 29, which is the number of homes owned by our corporation.

We continue to invite each person, lay and clergy, of our conference to contribute one dollar per year for each person ordained a commissioned probationer. This is such a small sum, however the sum of these becomes a much larger total and in turn helps assist those who have faithfully served in our conference. My hope is that **YOU** become a member of the Covenant of Gratitude and help our program year after year.

Thomas L. Coffman, *Executive Director*

CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The conference Board of Trustees (Trustees) met Sept. 13, 2004, and March 7, 2005.

Acting at the request of the Board of Global Ministries, the Trustees subordinated a number of mortgages and trust agreements for local churches.

The Trustees approved the 2005 budget of \$300,000 for operations of the Virginia United Methodist Center (VUMC) in Glen Allen.

The chair of the Trustees and chair of the Committee on the Episcopacy met with Bishop and Mrs. Joe E. Pennel Jr., in June of 2004, at the episcopal residence. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss maintenance and improvements needed to the home. Jim Branscome, conference treasurer, reported that all items were completed by the time Bishop Kammerer moved into the residence in late August. These included a new roof.

An Episcopal Residence Committee has been activated, in accordance with the *Discipline*. The chairperson of the conference Committee on the Episcopacy will chair the committee. Other representatives are from the conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) and the conference Board of Trustees.

Jim Branscome informed the Trustees that he would be retiring on Dec. 31, 2005, after 23 years of service. The Trustees expressed regrets at this news, and expressed their deepest appreciation for his devoted service to the conference and as treasurer for the Trustees. President Hartwell appointed Trustee Charles Cox to serve as member of the transition team dealing with the vacancy created by this retirement.

Lee B. Sheaffer, chair of the Committee on Naming Rooms in the VUMC gave this progress report:

Two framed pictures will be hung in the hallway in front of the Disciples Chapel. One will list United Methodist bishops serving the Virginia Annual Conference since the 1968 merger. The second will list bishops elected from the Virginia Annual Conference since the 1968 merger.

A Memorial Book to record the names of donors of qualifying gifts to the center will be placed in a custom-built cabinet. The cabinet will be permanently located in the atrium of the center. The book will memorialize the donors and dignify their part in helping to bring the Virginia United Methodist Center to reality.

Robert (Bob) Carpenter suggested that the names of Virginia Conference lay leaders since the 1968 merger, be memorialized on an appropriate plaque, somewhere in the center. This suggestion was made as an amendment to the Naming of Rooms Committee report. The Trustees approved this amendment.

The treasurer reported that the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) has requested a long-range capital expense funding of \$100,000 for the year 2006. It was moved, seconded and approved that the report be received and referred to CFA.

Robert Carpenter reported for the Conference Facilities Task Force, appointed to study future requirements of the Virginia Annual Conference for a conferencing facility, and to determine if VUMAC in Blackstone would meet such requirements.

A questionnaire has been sent to selected persons to solicit information:

- (1) What are the requirements of The Virginia Annual Conference for an adequate conferencing center and
- (2) To determine if VUMAC in Blackstone meets the needs of the conference.
 - (a) As is
 - (b) With modifications
 - (c) Not feasible.

The Trustees accepted the report and raised some concern regarding the possible cost of a conferencing facility.

The Trustees discussed the matter of an option granted to the Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation for a 4.88 acre parcel of land at VUMAC. The option price was agreed upon for \$84,000. This included an original cost estimate amounting to \$23,400 for an off-site water line to serve the housing to be built on the site. The housing would be made available to low-income elderly persons. Financing for the development would be from a HUD grant. This type of financing takes time and thus the Development Corporation requested that the option be extended to September 2005. The Trustees approved this extension. In the interim, estimated costs for the proposed water line have increased by 20 percent. Also, in the beginning, it was anticipated by VUMAC officials that cash could be derived from the sale of timber on the designated site. As of this writing, the only timber rights available would be for those trees that will be removed from the 4.88 acres to accommodate orderly construction.

Benham Black briefed the Trustees on the status of the Lawsuit: Kimberly Herndon vs. Trustees.

The sale and transfer of the Wetlands United Methodist Church property near Covington will be handled by the bishop and Cabinet as provided for in the United Methodist *Discipline*. The conference will need to specify disposition of the net proceeds from the sale of this discontinued church.

The following have been elected as officers of the conference Board of Trustees for terms commencing in January 2006: Charles Cox, president; Sallye H. Bowen, vice president; Paul C. Bailey, secretary.

Dewitt T. Hartwell, *President*

BOARD OF LAITY

The ministry of the more than 342,000 lay members of the Virginia Conference continues to exhibit the faithfulness and vitality that serve as a model for others across the United Methodist Church. This report could not begin to reflect the depth of the ministry we share with our clergy sisters and brothers in the 1,210 local churches in this conference. Your conference Board of Laity salutes each of you who serve as a member of the annual conference representing your congregation and commend to you the following reports submitted by the three divisions:

LAY LIFE AND MINISTRY

The Division on Lay Life and Ministry, chaired by Associate Conference Lay Leader Gordon Wilkins, continues to expand its focus on Bible study in each local

church and promote use of the Standards for Lay Leadership in the Virginia Conference. Special displays at annual conference will emphasize both initiatives. The division also coordinates the annual Laity Sunday Celebration the third Sunday in October. Special resources for planning this observance in the local church will be available on the Virginia Conference Web site and at the Board of Laity display.

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Division, chaired by Associate Conference Lay Leader Brenda Brooks, in cooperation with the United Methodist Foundation, has promoted organization of a conference-wide network of district stewardship chairs and others responsible for stewardship education. In February of 2005, Bishop Kammerer; Dr. R. Franklin Gillis Jr., director of Four Seasons Ministry; and the Rev. Edward Johnson, stewardship coordinator for the Petersburg District, led a listening and training session designed to explore the importance of effective financial stewardship. In May, David Bell, director of the Center for Christian Stewardship of The United Methodist Church, conducted four workshops throughout the annual conference titled "A Call to Financial Discipleship: Encouraging the Joy of Generous Giving." At annual conference 2005, the Stewardship Division will encourage tithing with displays and buttons.

RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

The Division for Retreats and Conferences, chaired by Associate Conference Lay Leader Shirley Cauffman, offers opportunities for spiritual growth for the laity of our conference. The Laity Spiritual Life Retreat provides an opportunity for families to go on a retreat together since we provide a retreat experience for adults and children, ages 5-11. Several hundred attended this year's retreat at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) led by Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, president of Wesley Theological Seminary and an elder in the Virginia Conference. The annual retreat provides an opportunity for worship, Bible study, small group discussion, and fellowship. The division also is providing an opportunity for biblically based leadership training for laity and clergy. In September 2004, we offered two sessions of the first Academy of Servant Leadership led by Dr. Evelyn Laycock. New, emerging leaders were targeted in each district and there were 116 laity and clergy in attendance. The second academy will be offered on Aug. 27-28 and 29-30, 2005. It will again be led by Dr. Laycock. Attendance at the Laity Banquet held each year during annual conference continues to be 500+. The Virginia Conference continues to have the highest attendance at the Laity Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska. This year's retreat, July 21-24, will feature the preaching of two Virginia leaders, the Rev. Clarence Brown, newly-appointed Norfolk District superintendent, and the Rev. M.J. Kim, director of Asian-American Ministries for the Virginia Conference. Registration information will be available at the Board of Laity display.

LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES

Keith Willyard, conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries for the last four years, reports another successful year of training and organizing for ministry among the several thousand Local Church and Certified Lay Speakers across the Virginia Conference. The highlight, as always, was the 2005 School of Lay Speaking Ministries held at VUMAC, Blackstone, Feb. 25-27. Twenty-two instructors from throughout the conference were on hand to teach 14 Advanced courses and four classes of the Basic Lay Speaking Course. Some 366 persons registered

for training. Ninety persons completed the Basic Course, becoming first-time Local Church Lay Speakers (LCLS). With over 2,000 Certified and Local Church Lay Speaking Ministers in the Virginia Conference, there is no reason for any church/charge to be without someone in the pulpit 52 weeks of the year. Larry Dean, current Director of Lay Speaking Ministries from the Alexandria District, will assume the position of conference director at the close of this conference year. Plans are already under way in the planning of next year's conference training session that will be held the weekend of Feb. 24-26, 2006. Further information can be obtained on the conference Web site <www.vaumc.org>, and from the District Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries. Larry Dean can be reached at: <LarryLJDean@aol.com>.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Janet Bracey, Leadership Training Coordinator, reports training for new district lay leaders as members of the Board of Laity. Information concerning District Leadership Training was compiled and posted on the conference Web site and assistance in leadership training and/or "Partners in Ministry" training is available to clergy and lay leadership upon request. distributed through Clergy and Laity Net e-mail list serves, including dates, times, locations and contact information of such training events. The training/resource manual for local lay leaders of the Virginia Annual Conference was made available to districts for district leadership training events. A flyer addressing the "connectional role of the lay leader" was developed and included with Charge Conference forms and packets.

SCOUTING MINISTRIES

James Gibbs, coordinator of Scouting Ministries, reports that Scouting in the Virginia Conference is growing. Virginia is one of the leading conferences in the nation in the number of Scouts and leaders registered in local United Methodist churches. All 18 districts have a District Scouting Coordinator. Our conference had three coordinators to go to the Philmont Scout Training Camp in Cimarron, New Mexico, in July of 2004. We have others going in 2005. We have 406 United Methodist churches in the Virginia Conference which charter Boy Scout units. There are 28,007 youth registered in Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, and Venture Crews in the Virginia Conference, led by 15,900 registered adults in support of the ministry. Girl Scouts do not charter to a church. Therefore, the numbers of Girl Scouts and their leaders is not known. Our program encourages the United Methodist Church to make their facility available to them for their program and encourages their members to be leaders for the girls. The God and Country program is being aggressively pursued by the Scout units. Outstanding adult leaders in Scouting are being recognized with the Torch Award. Troops are earning the Bishop's Award of Excellence. The Methodist Scouting Encampment was a success in 2004 under the excellent leadership of its director, Tommy Byrum, of Chesapeake. It will be held again in Nov. 2005 in conjunction with the United Methodist Men Spiritual Retreat at VUMAC. The VUMAC Board of Directors has given the conference Scouting Committee its approval to build an exit road from the VUMAC campground, enabling all traffic in the campground to be one way, adding to the safety of the campers. Scouting is well in Virginia, thanks to the United Methodist Church.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

A special tribute is offered to Sandra Baker of the Winchester District, Wayne Hunley of the Peninsula District and Merribeth Neal of the Harrisonburg District, whose service as district lay leaders concluded at the end of 2004; to Keith

Willyard, who completes his term as director of Lay Speaking Ministries, and to all the local church, district and conference lay leadership for your commitment to Christ and his church.

Ron Hardman, *Conference Lay Leader*

RECOMMENDATION

The Conference Board of Laity, at a meeting on Feb. 12, 2005, nominated Ron Hardman of Riverview United Methodist Church, Portsmouth District, to be re-elected conference lay leader for the year 2005-2006.

Frank Lasley Jr., *Chair, Board of Laity Nominations Committee*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

In 2004, the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women (UMW) celebrated the 135th anniversary of the founding of the Woman's Missionary Society, the first of our predecessor organizations. A booklet was prepared honoring 135 women who have made important contributions to Virginia Conference UMW in past years, with a section for each of the 18 districts. It was presented at the October 2004 Annual Meeting.

In celebration of the 135th anniversary, Ethel W. Born, a past president of Virginia Conference UMW, wrote and published a book, *Candlesticks: Methodist Women Putting Faith To Work in Virginia*. The book describes the history of Virginia Conference mission projects sponsored by UMW and its predecessors.

The 135th anniversary theme was lifted up in each of our events during the year:

- Spiritual Life Retreat, April 30-May 2, "Paths to Prayer," led by the Rev. Patricia D. Brown.
- Young Women's Weekend, Aug. 20-22, "Feed My Sheep," led by the Rev. Doris V. Byrd.
- School of Christian Mission, July 23-29, co-sponsored by UMW and the conference Board of Global Ministries, with studies on Prayer, Cuba, and Public Education.
- Annual Meeting, October 30-31, "A Century + Women in Mission," with keynote speaker Genie Bank, immediate past president of Women's Division. A 135th anniversary quilt, a "Herstory" display, a historical skit based on a meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society in 1869, and "walk-around women" portraying significant leaders from the past served as reminders of our heritage as UMW.

Virginia Conference UMW mission giving in 2004 was \$1,040,161.67. This includes \$755,733.07 as Undesignated Giving for Women's Division mission projects and a total of \$184,150.73 for Virginia Conference projects, as well as funds designated for other national and international mission projects. Supplementing that amount are funds given by the 870 local units to local mission projects, as well as financial contributions and many hours of volunteer service through their local churches by our more than 28,500 members.

We are grateful for the excellent leadership of Carol Gaston, conference president for the past four years, and we look forward to the future, trusting in God's guidance as we seek "to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

Betty C. Whitehurst, *President*

WESLEY COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER, INC.

In 2004, the Wesley Community Service Center, a national mission institution related to the General Board of Global Ministries and under the sponsorship of Virginia Conference United Methodist Women, completed its 67th year of continuous work and ministry among “the marginalized and least of these.” In the tradition of the settlement house movement in America, we have served our friends and neighbors in a myriad of ways, fulfilling our mission “to improve the quality of life and provide hope and opportunity within Southside Portsmouth.”

A “new work” at Wesley has been the establishment of a Thursday evening Coffeehouse program where adults gather between the hours of 5:30 and 8 p.m. for snacks, information sharing, games, or just to come in off of the streets. Another “new work” has been to cooperate with the Urban League of South Hampton Roads in hosting a bi-weekly discussion group around issues related to HIV and AIDS.

Last summer, agency volunteer Doris Brown and others led a summer camp for area children here at the agency. Forty-nine youngsters participated in a daily program for six weeks which included lunch each day through the USDA Lunch Program. Incorporated within this summer program, United Methodist Women of the Norfolk District and others sponsored and led a weeklong Vacation Bible School, and are making plans to do so again in the summer of 2005.

Of course our other regular works of feeding the hungry and homebound, hosting a congregate nutrition site for the elderly; financial management for those physically and mentally challenged; providing emergency financial assistance and coordinating holiday support for area families in addition to providing other advocate, case, and referral assistance and services to individuals and families according to their needs have continued with exceptional vitality. Our Board of Directors has recently commissioned a “Community Needs Assessment” to help us determine program gaps in our community and guide our strategic planning for the next three to five years. We are pleased that Norfolk State University’s School of Social Work is assisting us with this process.

Grateful for our partnerships with and support from the United Methodist Church’s “Caring Connection” the Ecumenical Faith Community, The United Way of South Hampton Roads, our extraordinary and faithful volunteers and contributors, and of course, our dedicated Board of Directors and staff, the Wesley Community Service Center, Inc., does indeed continue to work in the lives of all who come within its reach through its many wonderful works! And we thank the Virginia Conference for your love, support, patience, and understanding as we seek to build and strengthen community for all whom we serve.

Robert Parks, *President, Board of Directors*

John G. Hatcher Jr., *Executive Director*

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Annual reports from districts across the Virginia Conference listing activities of United Methodist Men (UMMen) in 2004 reveal a continually growing commitment to MENistry. In a year when the conference president was able to participate in only four district events in deference to medical constraints, the other conference officers and district presidents stepped up and ensured quality events for the men of their districts.

Exemplar of these efforts are the Ashland District’s Spiritual Retreat at Westview on the James, the fourth tri-district retreat sponsored by the Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Winchester districts that continues to enrich men’s lives with

uplifting programs, a pastor appreciation dinner hosted by the Portsmouth District, semiannual district-wide men's breakfasts in the Norfolk District, and the first bi-district rally hosted by the Alexandria and Arlington districts. District rallies provided opportunities for men to gather, sometimes with their wives, to celebrate MENistry and to elect leaders. Local fellowships throughout the conference, including three in a single district, planned and hosted meaningful spiritually-focused retreats for the men of their fellowships, frequently inviting others to join them to share the joy of men gathering in a retreat setting to celebrate, renew, and increase their faith.

The UMMen's unwavering support of the Heart Havens ministry continued as the 10th home opened in the Lynchburg District. The men of the Norfolk District persevered in their support of Heart Havens by contributing more than \$14,000 to pay down the mortgages of Heart Havens homes and covenanted to ensure permanent yard maintenance for the two Heart Havens homes in the Norfolk District. The Lynchburg UMMen weren't satisfied with opening the first Heart Havens home in their district; they've already begun planning for construction of a second home across the street from the existing Heart Havens home. The UMMen in other districts continue to provide yard maintenance and perform minor repairs to the homes in their respective districts.

The UMMen in Northern Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, and Tidewater areas, working in concert with the conference Mission Office, responded to an urgent need and coordinated the collection and loading of 1,751 flood buckets onto trucks to assist victims of the series of hurricanes that ravaged Florida in the fall of 2004.

The annual November UMMen Spiritual Retreat drew men from as far away as the Delaware, North Carolina, and Central Pennsylvania conferences to hear Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas, professor of preaching at Asbury Theological Seminary, bring Scripture to life under the theme of "Men Sent By God," enjoy spirited singing, renew acquaintances and friendships with men from around the Virginia Conference, and return to their home churches and fellowships with renewed faith and commitment to encourage other men to grow spiritually through fellowship with other men of their church. The 374 men who came to Blackstone left the assembly center having been blessed by their participation. Planning is well under way for the Nov. 3-5, 2005, Spiritual Retreat, where Dr. Bill Bouknight, senior pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Memphis, Tenn., will preach five sermons on the theme, "Equipping Men As Disciples of Jesus Christ."

The men attending the April 2, 2005 Leadership Development Day and Annual Business Meeting at Bon Air United Methodist Church elected officers to serve from July 1 until June 30, 2006. Election results were: President, Brian Manwiller; Vice President for Membership and Administration, Larry Tubbs; Vice President for Spiritual Life, Larry Burian; Secretary, Larry Baker; Treasurer, Bruce Long; Chaplain, Keith Lauer.

Brian W. Manwiller, *President*

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) is called to identify, support, develop, and examine those persons who would lead the church in making disciples, in the orders of deacon and elder, the fellowship of diaconal ministers and local pastors, and the various fields of certified professionals.

The board focuses much prayer, time, and energy in the recruitment, mentoring, formation, interviewing, and credentialing of candidates who feel God's call to ordained, commissioned, licensed, and certified ministries. We are excited about

the clergy and certified lay professionals who will be received as they come to milestones in their journey at this annual conference. God continues to raise up spiritual leaders ready to meet the summons of Christian ministry for such a time as this.

During the past year, the board was pleased to sponsor a two-night retreat in October 2004, which gathered the order of deacon, the order of elder, commissioned ministers, associate members, the fellowship of local pastors and the fellowship of diaconal ministers. This time apart focused on nurturing the spiritual life of clergy.

A new initiative has begun to focus on the importance of “leadership” in clergy identity. A vocation/leadership component will be included in the interviews for ordination beginning in 2006, and the probationary process will be more intentional in developing persons to lead the church in God’s mission of making disciples.

Clarifying the theology of ordination has become a key goal for the board. A steering committee has been organized to create an atmosphere of conversation and dialogue about the meaning of ordination, anticipating a gathering of interested persons to share insights and directions in the fall of 2006. This study springs from the call of the 2004 General Conference for a renewed study of ordination.

A new board committee has been organized to coordinate ministries for ongoing clergy effectiveness, including the self-care covenant, the standards for clergy leadership, the instruments for assessment and tools for emerging multicultural ministries. The former sexual ethics committee has expanded its work to include other issues and has become the ethics committee. A new retirement committee will be formed to interview those who request retirement and to coordinate support for those who are entering or have entered the retired relationship.

We encourage all local churches and clergy to become familiar with the Virginia Conference self-care covenant (available at <www.vaumc.org>), and to help ensure the ongoing mental, spiritual, and physical health of pastors, deacons, and those in extension ministries.

Persons who are interested in pursuing God’s call to clergy leadership are encouraged to contact their local church pastor, district superintendent, or the Office of Ministerial Services. An Exploration Event for college students who want to consider the ordained life will be held in Charlottesville on March 24-26, 2006. For high school students, Randolph-Macon College in Ashland hosts an annual exploration event in August.

The following persons have been approved for continuance in the active relationship as diaconal minister: B. Arlene Hewitt, Lynn M. Meeks, Karen Mills-Thomas, S. Annette Pomeroy, Bobbi Alley Rowley.

The following persons have been approved for professional certification: *Christian Education* – Martha Trice Reynolds, Judy Teagle; *Youth* – Kathleen E. Coulson, Tara McPeak Warner, Angela Seckler Williams; *Evangelism* – Cynthia Case Lopynski.

The following persons have been approved for re-certification: *Christian Education* — Jeannetta Benedict, Herb B. Brynildsen Jr., Mary Ellen Scott Campbell, Janice Chipman, Ellen Jane Clements, Kathleen Elizabeth Coulson, Susan D. Cutshaw, Ann Marie Davis, Leila W. Denton, Beth Downs, Judith R. Fender, J. Stanley Hargraves, Catherine T. Hickman, Cynthia Ann Lee, Virginia Lee, Amy V. Lenow, Barbara Folts Miner, Leslie Oakes, Judith Clegg Oguich, S. Annette Pomeroy, Gretchen Lynn Potter, C. Rives Priddy, T. Darlene Runalduie, Charles H. Smith III, Sandra C. Stanley, Mary Sue Swann, Julie Ann Taylor, Carol Uzzle, Carole H. Vaughn, Julia Kuhn Wallace, Susan Willhauck; *Evangelism* — Hilary William “Pete” Costello Jr., Judith R. Fender, Timothy D. Hazlett; *Music* — Laura

B. Douglass, Roger Dowdy, Ronald E. Dyer, Janet D. Hawkins, Lynn M. Meeks, Ralph Mills, Robert G. Swift, Leigh Anne Taylor; *Youth* – Jennifer Vestal Moore, Virginia B. Pritchard, Renee Rowe, John Wade Tindall.

Jeffrey P. Mickle, *Chairperson*

Report on 2004 Resolution #2, Policy for Clergy Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

(Referred to Board of Ministry for Reporting to 2005 Annual Conference)

Each year in the Commonwealth of Virginia, over 48,000 children are reported for suspected abuse or neglect.* Since 1996, the Council of Bishops' Initiative for Children and Poverty has urged all United Methodist churches to work toward a more just world for children, bearing responsibility for their spiritual and physical welfare. Our social principles state, "We recognize that family violence and abuse in all its forms — verbal, psychological, physical, sexual — is detrimental to the covenant of the human community. . ."¹

One aspect of fulfilling our baptismal promise to care for children means to "surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness. . ."² Our social principles on the rights of children remind us that "in particular, children must be protected from economic, physical, emotional, and sexual exploitation and abuse."³ Surrounding our children means to provide safe sanctuaries where they can be loved and nurtured in the faith.

Parishioners often confide in clergy and religious professionals. While clergy are expected to maintain such confidences, their responsibility goes beyond the pastor-penitent relationship to that of the broader community, especially to those whose voice is compromised by age and/or abuse or neglect. The 2004 General Conference took note of this responsibility when they adopted the statement:

"All clergy of The United Methodist Church are charged to maintain all confidences inviolate, including confessional confidences, except in the cases of suspected child abuse or neglect or in cases where mandatory reporting is required by civil law. (2004 *Book of Discipline* ¶341.5)"

Currently, clergy in the Commonwealth of Virginia are not mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect. However, when United Methodist clergy of the Virginia Conference become aware of suspected child abuse or neglect, the conference expects that the clergy or religious professional will ensure that a report to Child Protective Services will be made. Clergy can make reports themselves, anonymously if desired. Such a report need not prove that abuse or neglect has taken place — that is the responsibility of local Child Protective Services. Reports may be made to Virginia's Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-522-7096.

Clergy and religious professionals are expected to participate in training provided regarding the implementation of this policy through the oversight of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Further, clergy will ensure training of volunteers, church staff and adjunct ministry staff relating to children and youth programs in his or her place of ministry. Clergy may need also to maintain an active role in advocacy for the child and their family who are the concern for the reporting.

Implementation recommendations:

Training for the implementation shall be through the Board of Ordained Ministry in partnership with the Children's Initiative Committee, Children's Section of Age-Level and Family Ministries and United Methodist Family Services. Funding for initial clergy and religious professionals shall be through Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) funding. Additional educational training shall be underwritten through conference program funding. Further, a representative

team from the above groups, in conjunction with Virginia United Methodist Communications, Inc., shall intentionally share this policy with all members of the Virginia Conference through each of its churches. Together, the representative team and Virginia United Methodist Communications will identify what is changing in our policy and will utilize a theme that shares the identity of the Virginia Conference as a church where the child comes first.

*The Code of Virginia defines an abused or neglected child as any child under 18 whose parent, or other person responsible for the care of the child:

- Causes or threatens to cause a non-accidental physical or mental injury;
- Neglects or refuses to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, emotional nurturing, or health care;
- Abandons the child;
- Fails to provide adequate supervision in relation to the child's age and level of development; and
- Commits or allows to be committed any illegal sexual act upon a child, including incest, rape, fondling, indecent exposure, prostitution, or allows a child to be used in any sexually explicit visual material. (Section 63.1-248.2 Code of Virginia)

Members of the group to develop a policy recommendation include:

The Rev. Gina Anderson-Cloud — *Children's Initiative Committee*

The Rev. Elizabeth Buxton & The Rev. Martha Spigener — *Age Level & Family Ministries/Children's Section*

The Rev. Jonathan Barton — *General Minister, Virginia Council of Churches*

The Rev. C. Douglas Smith — *Executive Director, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy*

The Rev. Kendra Swager — *United Methodist Family Services*

Mrs. Ann Davis — *Conference Staff Liaison for Children's Issues*

The Rev. Charles Swadley

The Rev. Larry Tingle

BOM Ethics Committee (Mr. Hugh Martin, the Rev. Michael Houff, the Rev.

Shirley Wang, Dr. Susan Cross, the Rev. Beth Downs, Mr. Garry Cofield, Mrs.

Anita Jackson)

The Rev. Rob Vaughn, *Convener and chairperson, BOM Ethics Committee*

rev. 2/3/2005

(Footnotes)

¹¶161.H Family Violence and Abuse, 2004 *Book of Discipline*

² The Baptismal Covenant II, *United Methodist Hymnal*

³ ¶162.C on Rights of Children, 2004 *Book of Discipline*

Report on 2004 Floor Motion on Clergy Study and Sabbatical Leave (Referred to Board of Ministry for Reporting to 2005 Annual Conference)

At the 2004 session of the Virginia Annual Conference, the following motion was made by Ms. Laura Bishop, a lay member from the Arlington District, Clarendon Charge:

“That the Virginia Annual Conference request its appropriate board or commission to engage in serious study, research and reflection to develop guidelines and support for pastoral sabbaticals of varying lengths and for varying purposes.”

This motion was referred to the Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, which requested that two of the board's committees, the Conference Relations Committee and the Continuing Education Committee, work together to respond to this request.

Following a year's study, research and reflection, the Board of Ordained Ministry has determined that the 2004 *Book of Discipline* in ¶351, *Continuing Education and Spiritual Growth* and ¶352, *Sabbatical Leave*, give guidelines and support for pastoral study leaves, continuing education, and sabbaticals as intended in the motion. In addition, ¶351.4 addresses the issue of financial support. In terms of time, the requirement of the *Discipline* is that clergy shall spend at least one week each year and at least one month during one year of every quadrennium for continuing education. These leaves are not to be considered vacation. Study leaves of up to six months may be taken by clergy who have held full-time appointments for at least six years. All such leaves are to be scheduled in consultation with the local church pastor/staff-parish relations committee, the church council, and the district superintendent.

Financial support is offered to all clergy through the Ministerial Education Fund, which allows up to \$400 per year to clergy, certified professionals, and diaconal ministers who are appointed. In addition, other sources of funding include foundations, local church, district, and conference funding.

The Board of Ordained Ministry will continue to develop a resource listing of opportunities especially within the bounds of the conference and will post these on the conference Web site.

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION COMMISSION

The commission continues to provide financial aid to those 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 \$788,000 (\$672,000) salary, \$116,000 (pension) was provided to 62 charges in 2004. Sustentation grants were made in the amount of \$4,500. A schedule of salary and pension supplementation appropriations for 2004 has been provided to the conference secretary for publication in the *Journal*.

Salary and pension supplementation has been provided for 51 charges during the first six months of 2005. Appropriations for the last six months of the year will be adjusted immediately following the annual conference session to reflect changes due to ordination and appointment actions.

There were 17 charges receiving salary and pension supplementation in 2004 that did not require assistance in 2005. These are Saint Andrews (Alexandria); Bishop Memorial and Zion (Ashland); Accomac (Eastern Shore); West Buckingham Charge and Meherrin-Plantersville Charge (Farmville); Anderson Memorial (Lynchburg); New Town (Peninsula); Resurrection (Norfolk); Trinity (Roanoke); Mount Pleasant, South Covington, Hot Springs (Staunton); and Evergreen, Purcellville Circuit, Willisville Chapel and Macedonia (Winchester). 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 and in their stewardship.

District superintendents and charges setting salaries for 2006 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 2006 is \$54,946, which is an increase of 2.7 percent over 2005. The schedules for minimum salaries and the floor outlined in the recommendations provide a 2 percent increase in minimum compensation.

The financial projections for 2005 and 2006 for the Equitable Compensation Fund are furnished for information:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Estimated Income:		
Balance Forward	\$120,000	\$100,000
Benevolence Receipts	<u>775,000</u>	<u>775,000</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$895,000	\$875,000
Estimated Expenditures:		
Administration	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Salary and Pension Aid	780,000	800,000
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	10,000	10,000
Sustentation Grants	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$795,000	\$825,000
BALANCE	\$100,000	\$ 50,000

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Equitable Compensation Fund apportionment for 2006 be \$800,000
2. The Minimum Compensation Schedule for 2006 be:
 - a. Full Connection Pastors \$36,180
 - b. Probationers and Associate Members \$33,000
 - c. Local Pastors \$30,600
3. The Floor Schedule for 2006 be:
 - a. Full Connection Pastor \$25,320
 - b. Probationers and Associated Members \$23,100
 - c. Local Pastors \$21,420

Donald Yesukaitis, *Chairperson*

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST PENSIONS, INC.

PART A: FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

REPORT 1: SUMMARY OF 2004 BENEFIT PAYMENTS

During the calendar year 2004, pension and benefit payments to Virginia Conference clergy, retired clergy, widows, dependents and other beneficiaries totaled \$6,950,701. The distribution of these payments is shown as follows:

487	Ministerial members and local pastors, retired in Virginia	\$4,443,164
105	Ministerial members and local pastors, with service in Virginia, retired elsewhere	\$ 285,888
18	Ministerial members on disability leave	\$ 428,964
250	Surviving Spouses of ministerial members and local pastors retired in Virginia	\$1,640,134
75	Surviving Spouses of ministerial members and local pastors with service in Virginia, retired elsewhere	\$ 114,570
8	Children of deceased members, who retired in Virginia	\$ 30,551
<u>3</u>	Special Grants	<u>\$ 7,430</u>
946		\$6,950,701

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits made payments of \$6,950,701 through a combination of funded accounts administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the office of the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI). The Virginia Conference made payments of \$1,368,241 for the Annual Past Service Deposit (APSD) and \$13,130,994 in other benefit expenses, such as the conference medical, dental, disability and death benefits, grants and administrative costs, totaling \$14,499,235.

Total pension and benefit expenses of \$14,499,235 were paid from the following sources:

\$13,694,100 Local Church apportionments and personal contributions
\$ 805,135 Pension, Health & Welfare Reserve Fund

A complete listing of individual payments and income is on file in the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., office in Richmond.

The annual conference set the 2005 pre-1982 Past-Service Annuity Rate (PSR) at \$482. The 2005 Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) is \$50,931, which is less than the Virginia Conference Average Compensation of \$53,506. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits has calculated the 2006 Denominational Average Compensation to be \$52,394 and the Virginia Conference Average Compensation (CAC) at \$54,946.

REPORT 2: MODIFIED-DIRECT BILL

2004 General Conference action calls for the transfer of responsibility for the billing for the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). As of March 2005, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) will discontinue billing the local churches and salary-paying-units for the MPP and CPP. The GBOPHB will continue to bill and collect for Personal Investment Plan (PIP) contributions. As of April 1, 2005, VUMPI will be responsible for billing and collecting the required contributions for the MPP and CPP from the local churches and the salary-paying-units. As of April 1, 2005, MPP and CPP payments should be made payable to "VUMPI" and sent to: VUMPI, P.O. Box 1719, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

VUMPI will receive a one-time \$30,000 allowance in 2005 from the GBOPHB to assist in making this transition. As one of the largest conferences in the denomination requiring the largest number of monthly MPP and CPP transactions, this will be a significant undertaking for the Virginia Conference.

REPORT 3: CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM (CRSP)

The 2004 General Conference approved the new Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), effective January 1, 2007.

The CRSP is a combination defined benefit and defined contribution plan. In essence, future retired clergy will receive pension benefits from the CRSP that is similar to what many of our retirees currently receive — a pension benefit derived from a combination defined benefit plan (the Pre-1982 Pension Benefit) and a defined contribution plan (Ministerial Pension Plan). The main difference under the new CRSP is that the defined benefit portion of the plan will provide the majority of one's pension benefit. The defined contribution plan currently pays the majority of the clergy pension benefit.

VUMPI, on behalf of the Virginia Conference, will become the plan sponsor for deacons for the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP), also effective January 1, 2007. The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) specifically identifies the conference as the plan sponsor for deacons appointed to a local church, charge, conference or entity for which the conference has pension responsibility.

Many decisions must be made at the 2006 Annual Conference. Should we continue to bill, or should we apportion? How much will the CRSP actually cost and how do we pay for it? Where can the local church obtain low cost pension plans for their lay employees? How will the pension participant be able to decipher their benefits?

At this time, many of these questions have been addressed, however no decisions finalized by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits or VUMPI. Various VUMPI board members will be attending numerous meetings with the GBOPHB and our benefit consulting groups over the next 12 months, during which time we will resolve these questions and bring our recommendations to the 2006 Annual Conference.

REPORT 4: CONSUMER DRIVEN HEALTH PLANS

President Bush signed the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 saying “the new law will help all Americans pay for out-of-pocket health costs. This legislation will create health savings accounts, effective January 1, 2004, so Americans can set aside up to \$4,500 every year, tax free, to save for medical expenses. Depending on your tax bracket, that means you’ll save between 10 to 35 percent on any costs covered by money in your account. Our laws encourage people to plan for retirement and to save for education. Now the law will make it easier for Americans to save for their future health care, as well. A health savings account is a good deal, and all Americans should consider it. Every year, the money not spent would stay in the account and gain interest tax-free, just like an IRA. And people will have an incentive to live more healthy lifestyles because they want to see their health savings account grow. And at the same time, employees and their families will use these accounts to cover doctors visits or lab tests or other smaller costs. Some employers will contribute to employee health accounts.”

Again, at this time, the federal government has not yet finalized its guidance relating to such plans. However, it is worth noting that the federal government has created this type of combined medical/savings account in order to allow and encourage active participants to accumulate funds to pay for future medical costs, even in retirement. The secondary goal of this type of plan is to require health plan beneficiaries, or participants, to become better-informed consumers of health care services and thus control a significant level of the financial payments for routine health care services.

As federal guidance becomes clear, VUMPI will investigate the feasibility of offering a Consumer Driven Health Plan and present it to annual conference for approval, possibly as early as 2007.

PART B: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

RECOMMENDATION 1: 2006 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, or 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 so long as it can be done so without material increase in health care cost paid by our annual conference.

If a clergy member is not a participant in the Active Clergy Plan, and their church, employing agency or salary-paying-unit does not contribute to the Conference Health Plan Apportionment, then the clergy member will not earn a year of service towards his/her Total VAUMC Years of Service as indicated in the Retiree Health Plan Vesting & Contribution Schedule found in RECOMMENDATION 3.

For 2006, VUMPI recommends the Virginia Annual Conference adopt the following changes to its plans:

Disableds and Widowed Spouses of Active Clergy:

Under Age 65

Benefits offered under the \$250 Deductible PPO Plan and Dental Plan will remain the same for 2006.

Over Age 65

Benefits offered under the Retiree Health Plan (RHP) will remain the same in 2006.

Retiree Health Plan (RHP):

Under Age 65

1. \$5 increase in Primary Care Physician co-pay (\$10 to \$15) for the \$500 Deductible PPO.
2. \$15 increase Specialist co-pay (\$10 to \$25) for the \$500 Deductible PPO.
3. \$10/20/35 3-Tier Rx Formulary (\$8/15/30 currently) for the \$500 Deductible PPO.

Over Age 65

Benefits offered under the RHP will remain the same in 2006.

Conference Health Plan (CHP):

1. \$5 increase in Primary Care Physician co-pay (\$10 to \$15) for the \$500 Deductible PPO.
2. \$15 increase Specialist co-pay (\$10 to \$25) for the \$500 Deductible PPO.
3. \$10/20/35 3-Tier Rx Formulary (\$8/15/30 currently) for the \$500 Deductible PPO.

**RECOMMENDATION 2: 2006 PENSION & HEALTH PLAN
APPORTIONMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Apportionment Summary

VUMPI recommends the total pension and health apportionment of \$10,614,133 for 2006. This represents an approximate 9.6% increase in total apportionments over 2005. VUMPI recommends specific apportionments as follows: Pre-1982 Pension — \$563,106; Conference Health Plan (CHP) — \$5,666,400; Retiree Health Plan (RHP) — \$3,953,487; Disableds and Widowed Spouses of Active Pastors — \$431,140.

VUMPI's Pension, Health & Welfare Reserve Fund continues to earn interest, dividends and capital gains that are used to subsidize all apportionments.

Pre-1982 Pension Plan Past Service Rate & Apportionment

VUMPI recommends the 2006 Pre-1982 Apportionment of \$563,106.

VUMPI recommends the 2006 PSR of \$497, up from \$482, and is based on the CAC increase to \$54,946.

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 past service rate (PSR) times years of pre-1982 service; or (2) an annuity amount determined by the participants' cash balance 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.

Health Plan Apportionments

Retired Clergy:

VUMPI recommends a RHP apportionment of \$3,953,490. In future years, VUMPI will continue to recommend increases to the RHP apportionment at a rate, when combined with Participant Contributions, that is sufficient to eventually fully fund the RHP's operating cost.

Active Clergy:

VUMPI recommends a CHP apportionment of \$5,666,400 or \$7,200 for all salary-paying-units that have a full-time clergy. In future years, VUMPI will continue to recommend increases to the CHP apportionment at a rate, when combined with Participant Contributions, is sufficient to eventually fully fund the CHP's operating cost.

Disableds and Widowed Spouses of Active Pastors:

VUMPI recommends a Disableds and Widowed Spouses of Active Pastors apportionment of \$431,140.

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 the Participant Contribution Rates sufficient to eventually fully fund the operating cost of all the health plans.

MONTHLY PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS 2006
DISABLED/SURVIVING SPOUSES UNDER AGE 65

\$250 PPO Medical & Rx Plan

Individual	\$ 67	
Family	\$108	
<u>Dental</u>	<u>CORE</u>	<u>MAJOR</u>
Individual	\$ 9	\$24
Family	\$39	\$75

*ACTIVE CLERGY**

<u>Medical & Rx Plan</u>	<u>HMO</u>	<u>PPO 500</u>
Individual	\$122	\$ 33
Family	\$323	\$151
<u>Dental CORE MAJOR</u>		
Individual	\$ 9	\$24
Family	\$39	\$75

*Includes Deacons in Full Connection or Diaconal Ministers that are enrolled in the Clergy Conference Health Plan (CHP).

RETIRED CLERGY**

Retiree Health Plan Vesting & Contribution Schedule for Clergy

Total VAUMC Yrs of Service	Who is Covered?	Retirees > Age 65**	Retirees < Age 65		
			PPO 500	Dental Core	Dental Major
0-9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10-14	Individual	\$294	\$419	\$27	\$41
	Family	490	806	40	94
15-19	Individual	238	340	27	41
	Family	396	653	40	94
20-24	Individual	181	259	27	41
	Family	302	499	40	94
25-29	Individual	126	180	27	41
	Family	210	346	40	94
30 +	Individual	70	100	27	41
	Family	117	192	40	94

** Medicare Supplement & Prescription Drug Plan

RETIRED CLERGY HEALTH PLAN ACCESS FEE

Individual	\$20
Family	\$20

**RECOMMENDATION 4: 2006 MPP / CPP / VAUMC SUPPLEMENTAL PLANS
MPP/ CPP Virginia Annual Conference Addendum A:**

This Addendum A is applicable to the Virginia Annual Conference and is effective as of January 1, 2006. It replaces any previously executed Addendum A and shall be in effect until amended by the annual conference in accordance with the provisions of the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) (as revised January 1, 1989).

Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)

The MPP Church Contribution Rate is 12% of the current Denominational Average Compensation (DAC).

The Local Church and or the salary-paying unit shall make monthly MPP payments to the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., (VUMPI) in accordance with the plan document.

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

The 2006 CPP Church Contribution Rate shall be 4.4% of the Contribution Base of each active participant.

The 2006 CPP Contribution Base shall be the Participant's Plan Compensation for the Plan Year, not to exceed 200 percent of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC).

The Local Church and or the salary-paying unit shall make monthly CPP payments to the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., (VUMPI) in accordance with the plan document.

If, for any reason, CPP contributions are more than 30 days in arrears, participation in the CPP is suspended. If contributions are more than 6 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.

Disability Benefits

1. ***For those Clergy disabled on or after Jan. 1, 2002***, the 2006 CPP disability benefit equals 70 percent of Plan Compensation, with compensation capped at 200 percent of the DAC. Additionally:
 - a. the disability benefit is reduced, dollar-for-dollar, by any disability benefits received from the Social Security Administration. If the disabled participant, for whatever reason, receives no Social Security disability benefits, his/her CPP disability benefit will be reduced as if he/she received the maximum Social Security disability benefit available. This reduction will occur:
 - immediately if the participant refuses to apply for Social Security disability benefits,
 - 6 months after disability begins if the participant is not covered by Social Security, or
 - 24 months after disability begins if the participant has applied for Social Security disability benefits but has been denied them.

- b. a reduction in benefit occurs when income from other sources exceeds 100 percent of a participant's plan compensation during the first 24 months of disability or 70 percent of a participant's plan compensation after the first 24 months of disability. Such income from other sources shall include:
 - Compensation for services,
 - Gross income derived from a business,
 - Workers' Compensation payments,
 - State disability payments,
 - CPP disability benefits, and
 - income from a rehabilitation employment program is considered a part of other income at the rate of 50 percent during the first 24 months of disability and 100 percent after 24 months of disability.
 - c. the minimum disability benefit, in all cases, is 40 percent of the DAC.
 - d. for behavioral illnesses, benefits cease after 24 months of disability unless the participant is hospitalized.
 - e. for self-reporting illnesses, benefits cease after 24 months unless the disabling condition is objectively and conclusively verified by medical evaluation and testing.
 - f. rehabilitation benefits are provided only during the first 24 months of disability. The plan administrator may direct a disabled participant to participate in a rehabilitation program.
 - g. disabled participants who return to work on less-than-full-time basis and earn at least 30 percent less than the amount earned prior to disability will continue to receive disability benefits from the CPP. The benefit will be reduced dollar-for-dollar by the amount earned during the part-time employment. Under these circumstances, disability benefits will cease after 12 months.
 - h. application for disability benefits must be made within 365 days of the disabling event.
 - i. benefits may cease if a participant:
 - refuses to submit to a medical examination or deliver documentation verifying continuance of a disability, or
 - is no longer under the regular care of a properly licensed physician with expertise in the appropriate medical specialty for the disabling condition (a psychiatrist for behavioral illnesses or disorders).
 - j. in the case of a participant's legal disability or incapacity, the plan administrator may direct the disability benefit be payable to the participant, the participant's legal representative, a relative or a friend. The administrator's decision shall be final.
 - k. 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 further details, contact the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc., office at 804-521-1100 or 1-800-768-6040.

Death Benefits

1. The CPP death benefit for all active participants is \$50,000. Upon retirement, death benefits are reduced to equal 30 percent of the DAC. The beneficiary may choose to have the death benefit paid in 12 equal monthly installments or as one lump sum.

2. The Conference Supplemental Death Benefit for all active participants is \$45,000. This Conference Supplemental Death Benefit is payable in addition to the CPP death benefit. The entire cost of this Supplemental Death Benefit is paid by the conference.
3. In combination, the CPP and Conference Supplemental Death Benefit provide a total of \$95,000 in death benefits to beneficiaries of active participants.
4. The beneficiary will receive the Conference Supplemental Death Benefit payable in one lump sum.
5. Upon retirement, the Conference Supplemental Death Benefit, payable in addition to the CPP death benefit, is as follows:
 - first year of retirement \$80,000
 - second year of retirement \$70,000
 - third year of retirement \$55,000
 - fourth year of retirement \$40,000
 - fifth year of retirement \$20,000
 - sixth year of retirement \$ 5,000
 - thereafter \$ 5,000

Gift Benefit

A \$1,500 gift will be given at the time of retirement or disability (once awarded disability benefits under the Comprehensive Protection Plan) to each Clergy, or Diaconal Minister, 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 Clergy or Diaconal Minister who dies in active service is to be paid in the same amount as the gift to retired or disabled Clergy, Deacon-in-Full-Connection or Diaconal Minister.

RECOMMENDATION 5: LAY RETIREE HEALTH PLAN ELIGIBILITY

VUMPI recommends the adoption of eligibility standards that is consistent between the Lay Employee and Clergy Retiree Health Plans whereby the existing Vesting and Contribution Schedule for Clergy will be used for the eligible Lay Employees retiring on or after January 1, 2006.

Retired Lay Employees currently participating in the Virginia United Methodist Conference Retiree Health Plan and those who meet the proposed Retiree Health Plan Eligibility on or before January 1, 2006, will be considered vested with 30+ Total Years of Service, therefore they will be required to make personal contributions according to the 30+ Total Years of Service Personal Contribution Schedule.

Current Lay Employee Eligibility:

The current Lay Retiree Health Plan Eligibility rules that requires a Lay Employee to:

1. Be 62 years of age or older at the time of retirement.
2. Have been a full-time eligible employee to meet the service requirements.
3. Have worked with a church or affiliated agency that participated in the Virginia Conference Lay Medical Program for at least 10 or more years prior to retirement.
4. Have a combination of years of service and age equal to or greater than 80.

The 2003 Annual Conference approved the current Clergy Retiree Health Plan Eligibility and Retiree Health Plan Vesting & Contribution Schedule. While the majority of the language contained in the Clergy Retiree Health Plan Eligibility is specific to clergy and their relationship to the annual conference, the main

eligibility standards are readily translated into appropriate language applicable to the Lay Employee population.

Proposed Lay Employee Eligibility:

VUMPI recommends the following eligibility for requirements for participation in the Lay Employee Retiree Health Plan, effective January 1, 2006:

A Lay Employee that is employed within the Virginia United Methodist Conference whose retirement date is effective on or after January 1, 2006, will be eligible to participate in the Virginia United Methodist Conference Lay Employee Retiree Health Plan if, at date of retirement, the Lay Employee meets one of the following conditions:

1. The Lay Employee is age 62 or above or has at least 35 years of service, on date of retirement, and has served a Virginia United Methodist Conference employer during the last 10 consecutive years immediately prior to retirement in a full-time position, where their salary-paying unit(s) have participated in the Lay Virginia Conference Health Plan, *or*
2. The Lay Employee is age 62 or above or has at least 35 years of service, upon date of retirement, and has served a Virginia United Methodist Conference employer a minimum of 30 years in a full-time position where their salary-paying unit(s) have participated in the Lay Virginia Conference Health Plan, *or*
3. The Lay Employee under the age of 62 who has served at least 20 years in a full-time position, on date of retirement, and has served a Virginia United Methodist Conference employer (that has participated in the Lay Virginia Conference Health Plan for at least 10 consecutive years immediately prior to the employee's retirement date) will be eligible to pay 100% of the cost to continue enrollment in the Virginia Conference Lay Health Plan until they attain the age of 62.

Participation in the Lay Virginia Conference Health Plan until age 62 will not continue to add to or accumulate years of service for eligibility to be applied to the Retiree Health Plan Vesting and Contribution Schedule For Lay Employees.

At the age of 62, their contribution rate will be as stated in the Lay Retiree Health Plan Vesting and Contribution Schedule for all eligible retired Lay Employees based upon their years of service upon the date of retirement, *or*

4. The Lay Employee under the age of 62 who has served at least 20 years in a full-time position, on date of retirement, and has served a Virginia United Methodist Conference employer (that has participated in the Lay Virginia Conference Health Plan for at least 10 consecutive years immediately prior to the employee's retirement date) will be eligible to maintain his/her eligibility for the Virginia United Methodist Conference Retiree Health Plan by paying a monthly Retiree Health Plan Access Fee.
 - a. The Retiree Health Plan Access Fee is determined annually by the board of directors of the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Incorporated, and published in the *Journal of the Virginia United Methodist Conference*.
 - b. This Retiree Health Plan Access Fee will freeze her/his eligibility that s/he accumulated prior to entering one of the above-mentioned statuses. While making payment of this access fee, s/he will not receive healthcare benefits under the Lay Virginia Conference Health Plan, Retiree Health Plan, nor accumulate years of service for eligibility or the vesting and contribution schedule.
 - c. This Retiree Health Plan Access Fee must be paid monthly (unless other arrangements have been made with the Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Incorporated, office, in writing and signed by both parties) until s/he is

eligible to be enrolled in the Retiree Health Plan, at which time s/he would receive health care benefits under the Retiree Health Plan and pay the prevailing personal contributions.

Additional points of clarification:

1. Years of Service will be determined upon the date of retirement.
2. A Year of Service equals a year served with a Virginia United Methodist Conference employer in a full-time position where the salary-paying-unit was participating in the Lay Conference Health Plan.
3. Years of Service earned in other United Methodist conferences are not qualifying years of service under the Virginia United Methodist Conference Retiree Health Plan.
4. Retired Lay Employees currently participating in the Virginia United Methodist Conference Retiree Health Plan and those who meet the proposed Retiree Health Plan Eligibility on or before January 1, 2006, will be considered vested with 30+ Total Years of Service, therefore they will be required to make personal contributions according to the 30+ Total Years of Service Personal Contribution Schedule.
5. Individuals that have met the eligibility requirements for Virginia United Methodist Conference Lay Employee Retiree Health Plan accumulate years of service which will be applied to the vesting and personal contribution schedule as follows:

Retiree Health Plan Vesting and Contribution Schedule For Lay Employees

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Total % Cost of RHP</u>	=	<u>VUMPI % Contribution</u>	+	<u>Lay Employee % Contribution</u>
0 – 9	N/A		N/A		N/A
10 – 14	100		16		84
15 – 19	100		32		68
20 – 24	100		48		52
25 – 29	100		64		36
30 +	100		80		20

Retiree Health Plan Vesting & Contribution Schedule for Lay Employees

<u>Total VAUMC Yrs of Service</u>	<u>Who is Covered?</u>	<u>Retirees > Age 65**</u>	<u>PPO 500</u>	<u>Retirees < Age 65</u>	
				<u>Dental Core</u>	<u>Dental Major</u>
0-9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10-14	Individual	\$294	\$419	\$27	\$41
	Family	490	806	40	94
15-19	Individual	238	340	27	41
	Family	396	653	40	94
20-24	Individual	181	259	27	41
	Family	302	499	40	94
25-29	Individual	126	180	27	41
	Family	210	346	40	94
30 +	Individual	70	100	27	41
	Family	117	192	40	94

**Medicare Supplement & Prescription Drug Plan

RECOMMENDATION 6: PRE-1982 FUNDING PLAN



GENERAL BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Caring For Those Who Serve

1201 Davis Street
Evanston, Illinois 60201-4118
847-869-4550
www.gbophb.org

March 24, 2005
Mr. Donald F. Rogers
Virginia Annual Conference
P.O. Box 1719
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Re: Virginia Annual Conference 2005 Funding Plan

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Attached is a copy of the funding plan for 2005 you submitted on March 15, 2005, for the portion of Supplement One to the Ministerial Pension Plan attributable to the Virginia Annual Conference. The total liability as of January 1, 2003, is \$78,431,484 based on the following key actuarial assumptions:

- 7.5% interest
- RP-2000 mortality table
- Past Service Rate of \$482 and
- 3.0% average increase in the Past Service Rate.

In the opinion of The General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church, the attached funding plan meets the funding requirements of paragraph 1506.8 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2004*. This opinion applies only to the attached funding plan.

Sincerely,

Managing Actuary

**Virginia Annual Conference Funding Plan
For Supplement One to the Ministerial Pension Plan
Calculated Using Data as of January 1, 2003, Effective January 1, 2005**

The Virginia Annual Conference Past Service Rate (PSR) is \$482, or 0.9% of our Conference Average Compensation (CAC). For the past several years, our CAC has increased by an average of approximately 3.0% per year, and we expect that pattern to continue.

Before January 1, 1982, and as part of the rollout of the current Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP), the General Board of Pension communicated to the denomination that each conference would be required to retire the Pre-1982 Past Service Pension Liability by December 31, 2021. Therefore, each conference was given 40 years over which it could amortize its liability.

The Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI), on behalf of the Virginia Annual Conference, will make an annual contribution to Supplement One to the Ministerial Pension Plan of \$1,451,127, based on 3.0% PSR increases and amortized over the period ending December 31, 2021.

VUMPI will fund these benefits through a single annual contribution to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB), made typically during the fourth week of December for the year in which it is due.

This payment will be made from a \$563,106 Virginia Annual Conference apportionment and distributions of \$888,021 from VUMPI's Pension & Health and Welfare Reserve Fund that is invested in accordance with the Investment Policy Statement adopted by VUMPI's Board of Directors. This fund is maintained for the express purpose of maintaining the long-term viability of the Virginia Conference's overall benefit plans while simultaneously retiring the Virginia Annual Conference's Pre-1982 Pension Commitment by December 31, 2021.

The GBOPHB determines eligibility and performs and maintains all necessary record keeping and reporting related to covered participants. Projected beneficiaries, by type, as of January 1, 2003, are:

Active / 20-Year Rule	354
Other	33
Retired	576
Surviving Spouses	<u>302</u>
Total Participants	1,265

The Pre-1982 Pension Valuation and subsequent required funding, calculated using data as of January 1, 2003, effective January 1, 2005, is calculated by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefit using the RP-2000 Mortality Table and summarized below:

Total Commitment	\$78,431,484
Funded Portion	<u>\$62,602,983</u>
Unfunded Portion	\$15,828,501
Annual Contribution	\$ 1,451,127
Amortization period (yrs.)	17
Past Service Rate (\$)	482
Contingent Annuitant (%)	70
Interest Rate Assumption (%)	7.5
COLA Increase Assumption (%)	3

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 December 31, 2021, the Virginia Annual Conference reserves the right to modify this Funding Plan.

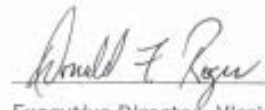

Bishop


Date



Chairperson, Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.


Date



Executive Director, Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.


Date

RECOMMENDATION 7: MEDICARE PART D

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 created Prescription Drug Benefits that will be added to Medicare in early 2006. This new benefit is referred to as Medicare PART D: Prescription Drug Coverage. This new law and benefit structure may apply to our retiree participants.

Employers such as the Virginia Conference who offer a post-retirement medical plan for retirees over age 65 will have a number of options to consider in the design of their plans to fit around the new Medicare Drug benefit.

However, as of March 15, 2005, the federal government has yet to finalize the specific guidance related to this benefit. Therefore, VUMPI is currently not in a position to make a specific recommendation as to how it will incorporate this new benefit plan into our own Retiree Health Plan.

In the interim, it is important to know that just as The United Methodist Church supports our Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid systems, VUMPI will make every effort to redesign its Retiree Health Plan prescription benefits in such a manner that we will supplement prescription benefits that are available from our federal government under Medicare PART D.

This supplemental benefit design concept is consistent with how our current Retiree Health Plan provides a supplement to Medicare PART A: Hospital and Medicare PART B: Medical and how the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits coordinates its disability benefits government benefits.

VUMPI's participation in Medicare PART D has the potential to provide significant cost reductions for our participants and local churches. VUMPI anticipates its 2006 prescription drug costs to be \$412,695 per month. Therefore, even a modest, and reasonably expected, 5% reduction in our prescription costs equals a savings of over \$20,600 per month. In the event VUMPI receives federal guidance, say in June 2005, the annual conference could needlessly spend nearly a quarter million dollars before the next session of our annual conference.

For this reason alone, VUMPI recommends that it be given the authority to amend its Health Care Plans between sessions of the 2005 and 2006 Annual Conferences in the event VUMPI identifies an opportunity to save prescription plan dollars. Such an amendment would occur only if VUMPI determines there is a cost savings combined with no reduction in prescription benefits for our participants.

As guidance from the federal government becomes available, VUMPI will meet to determine the most appropriate course of action. VUMPI will disseminate this information and any recommended changes through the Conference Communications Office at least 60 days in advance of any change.

RECOMMENDATION 8: 2006 HOUSING ALLOWANCE / EXCLUSION

Housing allowance and exclusion for retired 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 BE IT RESOLVED:**

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 2006 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 of The United Methodist Church for such retired clergy's pension or disabled clergy's benefits.
3. The pension payment to which this housing allowance and exclusion applies shall be the pension payment resulting from all service of such retired and disabled ordained or licensed clergy from all employment by any local church, annual conference or institution of The United Methodist Church or any other employer who employed the clergy to perform services related to the ministry and who elected to make contributions to the pension funds of The United Methodist Church for such retired or disabled clergy's pensions.

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.

Bobby Thompson, *Chair*

CABINET

“The task of superintending in The United Methodist Church resides in the office of bishop and extends to the district superintendent, with each possessing distinct and collegial responsibilities. . . The purpose of superintending is to equip the Church in its disciple-making ministry. Those who superintend carry primary responsibility for ordering the life of the Church. It is their task to enable the gathered Church to worship and to evangelize faithfully. It is also their task to facilitate the initiation of structures and strategies for the equipping of Christian people for service in the Church and in the world in the name of Jesus Christ and to help extend the service in mission.” (*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2004*, ¶401)

In carrying out this disciplinary mandate of superintending the church, your Cabinet has been engaged in developing and implementing a variety of initiatives and strategies this year. Among our highest priorities has been laying the groundwork for the development of new churches. In this regard, a team from the Cabinet

was established to work with our conference Director of Congregational Development and representatives from the conference Board of Global Ministries to develop a comprehensive strategy for new church development in developing an initial three-year plan for the planting of new churches. It was specified by the Cabinet that this strategy would include the establishment of a magnet African American congregation.

Clergy effectiveness has also been a priority concern for us. Working with the Board of Ordained Ministry, we have sought to strengthen and bring into clearer focus programs for strengthening clergy leadership within our conference, including increasing our efforts at communicating the many opportunities for clergy development now available. We have also worked with the Board of Ordained Ministry to institute an exit process for clergy who, over a period of time and after opportunities for improvement, continue to demonstrate ineffectiveness in ministry.

As we have focused upon the issue of clergy effectiveness, we superintendents have gained a renewed awareness of the critical roll that we play as supervisors of clergy and of our need for improvement in this area. As a result, we agreed to participate in a pilot program of supervision training for district superintendents sponsored by our General Board of Higher Education Ministries.

To better facilitate discussion and discernment relative to the issues coming before the Cabinet, we divided ourselves this year into four work groups, with many issues and concerns being assigned to a work group for prayer and reflection before coming to the Cabinet as a whole. We have found this to be a wonderful way of being able to devote more time and care to matters needing our attention.

One of the most significant happenings during the year for us was the retirement of our episcopal leader, Bishop Joe E. Pennel Jr. On July 27, 2004, the Cabinet hosted a luncheon in honor of Bishop Pennel and his wife, Janene, at River Road Church in Richmond. And then, on Sept. 16, 2004, we had the honor and privilege of welcoming into our midst and into the Virginia Conference Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer and her husband, Leigh. We are greatly excited that Bishop Kammerer is now a part of our Cabinet and conference family, and we look forward to the wonderful leadership she will provide in the name of Christ who calls us all to be partners in ministry.

Thomas L. Joyce, *Dean*

COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

The “Charter” of a brand new structure called the *Conference Council on Ministries* was brought before the Virginia Annual Conference for its approval in June of 1972. A conference council on ministries was a new concept for the Virginia Conference, mandated by the 1972 General Conference, replacing the former structure, the *Program Council*. Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson was the chairman of the first Virginia Conference Council on Ministries and Roland P. Riddick was the council director; there were 103 members, including 10 council staff.

Dr. F. Douglas Dillard Jr. was an active member of the Council on Ministries from that very first year, when he served as conference mission secretary, and chair of the Committee on Interpretation. His final appointment before he retired in 2000 was as the council director. Doug personified grace, competence, and leadership. His death this year was a great loss to this annual conference, and to the Council on Ministries, where his influence and example live on.

Twenty-three years ago the “Structure Study Committee” for the Council on Ministries began its report with the following quote from T.S. Eliot: “And the

Church must be forever building. . .” That is true for our day as well. The Conference Council on Ministries will be replaced by a new structure in January 2006, the 19-member *Common Table for Church Vitality*.

Without slipping into the kind of attitude immortalized in the old joke about Virginians and light bulbs (“How many Virginians does it take to change a light bulb?” “Three. One to change the bulb, and two to reminisce about how wonderful the old bulb was!”), I would like to express gratitude for the service to this annual conference given in its 34 years by the Virginia Conference Council on Ministries. Some of our finest leaders served on the council in these years, and some of our great ministries were begun under its auspices.

But the future always calls us. “In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,” we are called to follow the God who leads us into that future. The *Common Table for Church Vitality* was embraced by the 2004 Virginia Annual Conference as our vision for the future. With much gratitude for the task force chaired by the Rev. Tom Berlin, which presented this new concept to the annual conference, over the past year the Council on Ministries and staff have been working on the issues related to this transition.

Many of the key concepts have already been put into practice. The 22-member Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team (CLDDT) began its work following the 2004 annual conference, replacing the former Conference Nominating Committee. Meeting four times over this past year, the CLDDT members have prayerfully and carefully worked on the task of searching out persons of creativity and vision for conference boards and agencies. The conference staff have been working on the three visions embraced by the task force for their work: building a strong team, resourcing the local church, and finding ways to empower boards and agencies to do their work. The boards and agencies of the annual conference have been encouraged to re-visit their visions of how they do ministry. As a result, two of our major program boards, Global Ministries and Age Level and Family Ministries, are submitting proposals for restructuring that will allow them to do their work more effectively, more simply, and in a way that will bring them closer to the needs of the local church.

The *Common Table* Task Force laid out a number of goals for our annual conference: to be Spirit-centered and Spirit-driven, to grow spiritually and numerically, to serve the local church, and to connect with and equip the local church for ministries of welcome, nurture and transformation. Other goals are to 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, and to have more ministry and fewer meetings. With God’s help, that is the annual conference we shall become! “The Church must be forever building. . .”

Susan S. Garrett, *Council Director*

The conference Council on Ministries has elected the following staff for 2005-06 with the request that Bishop Kammerer appoint the ministerial members to the positions named:

Council Director — Susan S. Garrett

Director of Business Development — *James L. Branscome (Adjunct Staff Member)

Dean of Virginia Conference Leadership Development Institute — Thomas L. Joyce

Director of Congregational Development/Board of Discipleship — *Anna Gail Workman
 Director of Mission — J. Denise Honeycutt
 Director of Youth, Young Adult, and Singles Ministries — Angie Williams
 Director of Communications — *Carole H. Vaughn
 Editor of *The Virginia United Methodist Advocate* and Associate Communications Director for Print Media — Larry Jent
 Director of Higher Education Ministries — Raymond H. Edmonds
 Director of Ministerial Services — Beth C. Downs
 Director of Lay Life and Work, Disabilities, and Older Adult Ministries — *Martha E. Stokes
 Administrator of Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center — *Cammie Armstrong (Adjunct Staff Member)
 Executive Director of Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. — *Don Rogers (Adjunct Staff Member)
 *Denotes Lay

SPECIAL COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES GRANTS

<u>Dist.</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Accepted</u>
A	Rising Hope	15,000	10,000
Ar	Grace Ministries	5,000	5,000
Ar	Gracia UMC	5,000	5,000
Ar	Just Neighbors Ministry, Inc.	5,000	5,000
D	Henry Fork (Rocky Mount)	30,000	20,000
E	Agape Christian Community Center	20,000	15,000
E	Hispanic Ministry, Eastern Shore	10,000	7,000
H	Lighthouse Center for Children & Youth	15,000	15,000
H	Sister2Sister, JMU Mentoring	6,080	6,000
L	Park View Community Missions	5,000	5,000
Pr	Wesley Community Service Center, Inc.	25,000	20,000
Pt	Petersburg Urban Ministries	40,000	10,000
Rd	Upward Basketball – Beulah	5,000	5,000
Rd	Upward Basketball – Ramsey Memorial	5,000	5,000
Rn	Hispanic Ministry – Roanoke	15,000	9,000
Rn	Community Outreach	15,000	14,000
Rn	Justice for our Neighbors – Roanoke	30,000	3,000
S	Family Management Empowerment Center	5,000	1,000

2005 PROGRAMS

Age Level and Family Ministries (\$24,000)

FaithSteps	6,000
“It Worked for Us” Roundtables	500
Older Adult Week – Lake Junaluska	500
Single Adult Retreat	1,000
Singles Newsletter	750
Adult Workers Youth Academy	1,000
Events Brochure and “Youth Thrive”	5,500
Middle School Mission Weekend	0
United Nations Seminar	4,000
Awakening	0
YAC (Youth Advocates for Christ)	1,500

Annual Conference Orientation for Youth	500
VA UM Youth Leadership Assembly (VUMDYLA)	1,500
Methodist Madness	1,250
United Nations Seminar Scholarships	0

Board of Church And Society (\$9,000)

Web Editor/Editor for Board of C&S	950
Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries (CJAMM)	1,700
Peace with Justice Forum	450
Peace with Justice Essay Contest	0
Conference Legislative Network (CLN)	4,900
Green Church Proposal	0
Healthcare – Covering the Uninsured	1,000

Virginia UM Communications, Inc. (\$40,000)

<i>Virginia Advocate</i> Promotion	5,000
Benevolence Interpretation – Interagency	0
Communicating in the Local Church Packets	500
Communications Office Intern	1,200
Conference Resource Guide	5,200
Exploration of Permanent E-Mail Addresses	0
Identification of Teaching Churches	0
Igniting Ministry Grants	20,000
Igniting Ministry Trainer’s Training	0
Media Center Resources	1,000
<i>Neighbors</i> Newsletter	250
Print Media Training	100
Resource Personnel Identification Search	200
<i>The Sunday Advocate</i>	0
Technology 101	300
Tech Riders	0
Web Site Development Training	250

Board of Discipleship (\$20,000)

Beginnings Training	2,000
Ecumenical Camp Leadership Event	0
Focus Scholarships	0
SEJ/National Camp Directors’ Meeting	0
Sunday School – It’s for Life	0
Teaching Learning Connection	3,000
Growing Healthy Churches	2,000
Stockton Academy for Evangelism	5,000
A Summer Read	0
“Companions in Christ” Leader Training Day	2,500
A Directed Spiritual Retreat	1,050
Praying Through the Arts	1,450
FUMMWA	0
Multi-Generational Workshop	2,000
Worship Web Site	0

Commission on Ethnic Local Church Concerns (\$11,000)

African American Dialogue with Bishop	1,500
Stewardship Training – African American	1,000

Translation Services	2,000
Native American Listening and Exploration	2,500
Asian American Ministers' Retreat	0
Hispanic Training	1,000
<u>Board of Global Ministries (\$35,000)</u>	
VCC Joint Ecumenical Retreat	500
National Workshop on Christian Unity	500
VICOMIM Education and Support Ministries	400
VICOMIM Convocation for all God's People	1,000
Parish Nurse Fellowship Support	100
Benevolence Interpretation – Interagency	0
Conference Disaster Response	2,500
District Mission Secretary Training	4,000
Hunger Awareness Training	800
Refugee Resettlement	800
Virginia Conference Russia Initiative	3,060
VA Conference School of Christian Mission	5,500
United Methodist Volunteers In Mission	5,840
Voices of Youth Awakening the UMC to Mission	1,000
“Youth Mission Opportunity” Booklet	2,000
VA Conference UM “Health Issues” Booklet	0
Conference Committee on Mission Personnel	1,000
Initiatives of Hope	2,000
<u>Institutions and Volunteer Ministries Grant Fund (\$40,000)</u>	40,000
<u>Virginia Council of Churches (\$15,000)</u>	15,000
<u>Conference Board of Laity (\$9,000)</u>	
Local Church Stewardship Training	2,500
Spring Laity Spiritual Life Retreat	1,500
SEJ Lay Ministry Center Partner	200
Lay, Life and Ministry Emphasis	950
School of Lay Speaking Ministries	600
Ministry of Scouting	500
Academy of Servant Leadership	1,750
Lay Supply Pastor Orientation – Interagency	0
<u>Commission on Disabilities (\$1,600)</u>	
Deaf Ministry Team Support	800
Deaf Camp for Children	800
<u>Board of Higher Education Ministries (\$8,000)</u>	
Student Christian Leadership Development	1,000
Spiedel Campus Ministry Travel Program	5,000
Interpretation and Connection	2,000
<u>Board of Ordained Ministry (\$5,000)</u>	
New Clergy Orientation and Support	5,000

<u>Commission on Religion and Race (\$1,000)</u>	
Cultural Sensitivity Training	800
Bishop's Convocation on Religion & Race	600
<u>Commission on Status and Role of Women (\$1,000)</u>	
Celebration of 50 Years of Full Clergy Rights	500
<u>Leadership Development Institute (\$19,000)</u>	
Program for Church Enhancement	12,500
Emerging Ministries	0
Leadership University	4,500
<i>2005 Interagency Requests</i>	
Board of Global Ministries	
Benevolence Interpretation	4,000
Virginia United Methodist Communications	
Benevolence Interpretation	6,000
Board of Laity	
Orientation for Lay Supply Pastors	1,000
<i>2005 C.O.M. Scholarship Requests (\$11,000)</i>	
Age Level and Family Ministries	
United Nations Seminar Scholarships	2,000
Board of Global Ministries	
Parish Nursing Initiative Scholarship Fund	2,500
Voices of Youth Awakening the UMC to Mission	3,000
Ethnic Local Church Concerns	
Filipino Youth Conference	3,500

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

What a joy it is to see more and more congregations affecting and being affected by our partnership in God's mission in Virginia and around the world! There is much to *celebrate*, as well as much to *challenge* us, as we plan for the days ahead. We can:

- *celebrate* the 69 new covenant relationships with missionaries since the 2003 annual conference resolution to increase our support for our missionaries. This represents an increase of 21.5%.
 - *be challenged* to continue the effort to reach our goal of a 25% increase in covenant relationships by June 2005 and ultimately to fully fund our Virginia Conference GBGM missionaries.
 - *celebrate* the 26% increase in giving by Virginia Conference churches to One Great Hour of Sharing in 2004 (\$104,099).
 - *be challenged* by the realization that our giving to One Great Hour of Sharing represents only 30 cents/member. The national average for United Methodist churches is 41 cents/member. We challenge every congregation to observe the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, so that we, too, may achieve at least the 41 cents/member level of giving.
 - *celebrate* the completion of a year-and-a-half long effort to design a plan to restructure the conference Board of Global Ministries.
 - *be challenged* by the adjustments our board will need to make as we begin to implement the changes brought about by restructuring.
- None of our celebration would be possible without the commitment of the

leaders whose reports follow. We are energized and blessed, too, by the enthusiastic leadership of our Conference Director of Mission, Denise Honeycutt, and by all of the United Methodists throughout the Virginia Conference who continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ by responding to Jesus' commands in Matthew 25.

Dorothy C. Ivey, *President*

I. DIVISION OF CONFERENCE, PARISH, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The statistics below show the grants and loans made by our division for the purpose of helping local congregations better meet the needs of their communities and offering the love of God in Jesus Christ. As usual, the amounts requested exceed the amount of money we have to disburse. Yet most applicants for grants and loans received some amount of money.

The division has been going through a shift in how it awards grants to parishes. In years past, many grants were made for purely maintenance purposes, i.e. repair a roof, replace a furnace, etc. We now limit requests for maintenance projects to \$1500. Churches are encouraged to work with their respective district committees in receiving funds for maintenance projects. The division now gives priority to churches that are in growing situations and which seek to better accommodate the mission demands within a high growth environment. We also look at churches that are offering a dynamic and creative ministry to their communities. The latter emphasis requires evidence of growth in numbers of people coming to a church, but also focuses on churches in neighborhoods that do not have the economic capability to finance major capital improvements.

The funds made available to our division limit the amounts we have available to help churches. We are grateful the congregations who pay their church extension apportionment in full. They enable us to do the work we have been asked to do. There are ongoing discussions as to how the annual conference may improve the way we fund church growth and church planting. The coming year should be an exciting time for our division.

District	Church	Grant	Loan
Ashland	Mechanicsville	\$50,000.00	
Arlington	Gainesville	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Charlottesville	Mineral	\$15,000.00	
Danville	Epworth	\$10,000.00	
Danville	Fork Mountain	\$10,000.00	\$50,000.00
Danville	Harmony	\$ 5,000.00	
Danville	Maple Grove	\$15,000.00	
Danville	Whitmell	\$10,000.00	
Lynchburg	Calvary	\$ 1,500.00	
Lynchburg	Ephesus	\$ 1,500.00	
Lynchburg	Mt. Zion	\$ 1,500.00	
Lynchburg	Oakland	\$15,000.00	\$49,613.00
Norfolk	St. John's	\$ 1,500.00	
Norfolk	Zion-Grace	\$21,393.00	\$21,392.00
Roanoke	Fieldstone	\$20,000.00	
Staunton	Burnsville, Bath Charge	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Staunton	Sherando	\$ 1,500.00	\$10,000.00

Roy White, *Chairperson*

II. DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS (CUIC)

The Division of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns seeks to resource the local churches of the Virginia Conference in efforts to make visible our unity in Christ and to foster understanding and cooperation among the various religious groups in the Commonwealth. We commend churches in the Roanoke and Salem area who have engaged in dialogue between United Methodists and Roman Catholics using the Yearning to be One curriculum available through Discipleship Resources. We urge other congregations to utilize these resources as well. The division has been represented annually at the National Workshop on Christian Unity and is supporting a local organizing committee in their efforts to bring the Workshop to the Washington, D.C., area in 2007. Local churches are urged to consult the Web site of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns <www.gccuic-umc.org> for information and program materials such as the Study Guide for study and observance of Yom HaShoah, the Day of Holocaust Remembrance. The Division of CUIC calls on all Virginia United Methodists to make unity within the body of Christ and understanding among all religious faiths a priority in their ministry and planning.

Patricia Shipley, *Chairperson*

A. VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

“Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray that all thy Church might be for ever one, grant us at every Eucharist to say with longing heart and soul, ‘Thy will be done.’ O may we all one bread, one body be, through this blest sacrament of unity.”

The year 2004 represents the 60th anniversary of the Virginia Council of Churches, formed in 1944 to serve as a visible witness to the unity of the Body of Christ in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This year also celebrated the 50th year of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, and the 40th year of the signing of the Civil Rights Act. It is appropriate for us to reflect on this tense period in our history, taking a closer look at the role of the churches and the Virginia Council of Churches. Racial justice and understanding was a major part of the spirit that brought the council into being. By looking back on our history, we provide a path to look into the future as we continue this journey together. We were honored to work with Virginia Union University in hosting a symposium with such amazing persons, opening up our hearts and minds to the work we have shared together and work we have yet to do. Our annual meeting held at Virginia Union University featured Oliver Hill, and Dean John Kinney, students from Moten High School, and special performances from REACH of Norfolk, and One Voice, an interracial community choir. As we prepare the council to meet the challenges ahead in this new millennium, we move ahead knowing we are God’s people.

This year we welcomed seven new bishops and executives to the Coordinating Cabinet. The council was privileged to participate in the installation services for Bishop Kammerer and Bishop DiLorenzo. We also participated in the General Assembly Meeting of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We hosted the State Ecumenical Executives with 24 state Council of Churches attending. We participated in a special service honoring Native Americans at the National Cathedral and attended the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian. We began a new initiative in 2004 by convening leading members of the Abrahamic Faiths in an effort to build relationships, understanding, and respect for one another’s traditions.

- Presented the Faith-in-Action Award to the Rev. Cessar Scott, executive of the Baptist General Convention.
- The various program units of the council remain strong and active. We continue to stand with our Native American brothers and sisters in the six Virginia tribes as they seek federal recognition. Our Weekday Religious Education, now in its 76th year, continues a strong witness to 12,000 young people. The Campus Ministry Forum remains a strong presence on our campuses. Our partnership with the VICPP helped give voice to our shared concerns for justice on the floor in this year's General Assembly. During the General Assembly, we witnessed one of the largest ecumenical responses to legislation in recent history. The Naomi and Elizabeth Project continues with strong volunteer leadership reaching out to at-risk single mothers who need extra support and care. Our work with the Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster [VOAD] this year continues to bring together response teams from around the Commonwealth and the nation seeking to assist in the aftermath of the 2004 hurricane season.
- Our Rural Family Development unit serves more than 300 children of migrant farm worker families from birth to 5 years of age. We provide services for children and their adult family members through four Migrant Head Start centers on the Eastern Shore and Winchester. Our Refugee Resettlement efforts continue to welcome *New Virginians* helping persons to start new lives in a new land. The year 2004 broke records for the number of refugees resettled by the council.

Officers of the Virginia Council of Churches:

Bishop James Mauney – President

Father Jim Parke – Vice President

For further information, contact the Virginia Council of Churches (VCC), 1214 West Graham Rd., Suite 3, Richmond, VA 23220-1409, phone (804) 321-3300, FAX (804) 329-5066. The VCC Web site at <www.vcc-net.org> has information about the council and links with member denominations at national and Virginia levels.

Jonathan M. Barton, *General Minister*

III. DIVISION OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

The purpose of the Health and Welfare Division is to assist conferences “in addressing emerging and ongoing global health issues.” Within the past year, agencies related to the annual conference through the division, report the following activities. The Parish Nursing Program continues to grow and now exists in 15 of the 18 districts. Work on a DVD to introduce and promote the program is under way. The Virginia Interfaith Committee on Mental Illness Ministries (VICOMIM) remains an exemplary program at both state and national levels. In its report, the committee noted a rate of claims paid by Anthem to clergy and their families for services for depression that is 76.7 percent higher than the national average, and claims for coronary problems that are 20.2 percent higher than the national average. These figures indicate a need for professionals to be involved in the self-care of our clergy. Virginia United Methodist Homes reports the continuation of pre-construction activities at Windsor Meade, and negotiations for the purchase of an 80-acre tract in Chesterfield for construction of a new continuing care community. Heart Havens has relocated its office, has produced a new DVD, and anticipates construction of two new homes, a second in Lynchburg, and a home in the Peninsula District. United Methodist Family Services has received a grant in partnership with the annual conference and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), to launch “Virginia’s Children of Promise,” a yearlong mentoring program for children of incarcerated parents. Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation is providing affordable housing to 3,024 persons, with 50

apartments for seniors at Locust Grove, Orange County, and construction of apartments for seniors at five locations in the state. All agencies have been notified of the approval of the relationship agreement by the conference Council on Finance and Administration, and will submit statements to indicate compliance by March 2006. The division is submitting a resolution calling for a ban on mercury in medications (see "Resolutions").

Vince Sutlive, *Chairperson*

A. PARISH NURSES

Report not available at press time.

B. VIRGINIA INTERFAITH COMMITTEE ON MENTAL ILLNESS MINISTRIES (VICOMIM)

In 1995, the Virginia Conference was the first conference to respond to the 1992 General Conference action requesting United Methodists to respond to persons with mental illnesses. This important ministry continues today through the work of the Virginia Interfaith Committee on Mental Illness Ministries (VICOMIM). There are only two other United Methodist conferences that have such a ministry. VICOMIM offers a variety of print, audio, video, and electronic resources to clergy and laity of all faith communities on the subject of mental illness ministry. Many of these free resources will be available at the VICOMIM display at annual conference.

VICOMIM wrote the resolution on Mental Illness Awareness that was adopted at the June 2004 annual conference meeting in Hampton. Each congregation is urged to view the video mentioned, as well as have congregational prayer on behalf of persons with mental illnesses. To facilitate this awareness, VICOMIM provided a copy of the video, "Creating Caring Congregations," for each district superintendent. Copies of the video are also in the Media Center and in Disabilities and Lay Life and Work office available for loan.

During the 2004-2005 conference year, the Dept. of Health and Human Services, and Center for Mental Health Services (federal government) published "Building Bridges" in which VICOMIM was one of 12 faith community representatives in the United States invited to participate on an advisory panel. VICOMIM co-sponsored "Creating a Caring Community" with NAMI-VA on Oct. 4, 2004, in Richmond. VICOMIM submissions were published in the NAMI national *Advocate* magazine (Spring/Summer 2004), *Interpreter* magazine, May/June 2004, and (3) *Virginia Advocate*, October 2004. Representatives of VICOMIM made numerous presentations to local church, district, and conference groups as well as community agencies and organizations across the conference. VICOMIM, at the invitation of Bishop Pennel, made a presentation to the bishop's Cabinet. For the fifth year, the 10-hour course on mental illness ministry was taught at the Lay Speaking Ministries School in Blackstone, open to clergy and laity. In January, Margaret Ann Holt was recognized for her 10 years of service as president of VICOMIM. She is now the coordinator of resources for VICOMIM.

Margaret Ann Holt, *President*

C. HEART HAVENS, INC.

Heart Havens, Inc., has enjoyed another year of providing residential services for persons with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. In February of 2004, a new home opened in Lynchburg, Va. This brings the total of Heart

Havens facilities to 10, and we currently provide services to 50 individuals and their families.

Plans for the construction of two new homes are in the early stages. Being led by United Methodist Men, the Peninsula District is planning a home near Morrison United Methodist Church, and the Lynchburg District is planning to build across the street from the existing new home.

Heart Havens continues to receive the generous financial support from many sources across the Virginia Annual Conference, as well as very special personal involvement from United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, churches, community groups, and caring individuals. Charitable giving to Heart Havens increased by more than 115 percent in 2004.

Heart Havens' growth has resulted in specific strategic planning by the Board of Directors. Their involvement has set a very positive course for the future direction of the corporation.

Please keep Heart Havens in your prayers and please choose to become active in the spiritual enrichment of the individuals we serve. With the assistance of the churches throughout the conference, Heart Havens can promise that our special brothers and sisters will, indeed, **“dwell in the house of the Lord, forever”** because Heart Havens strives to provide outstanding services “through the development and management of homes which exemplify the love of Christ.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the month of February 2006 be designated as Heart Havens Month and that each church participates in doing God's work for our special brothers and sisters with disabilities by promoting a special offering for Heart Havens, Inc.,
2. That the relationship statement between Heart Havens, Inc., and the Virginia Annual Conference be continued with the blessing of our Lord.

Larry Cortright, *Chairman of the Board*
Geoffrey W. Whittaker, *President*

D. VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

This year represents the 30th year of our work as an agency of the annual conference to provide affordable housing for the people of the Commonwealth. Our mission statement involves assisting other groups to engage in the mission of providing affordable housing and to provide for housing in those places where we are led to do so.

We have assisted many other groups to begin this ministry, including several community service agencies in Virginia. And we are now providing housing for more than 3,000 persons throughout the state on an affordable basis.

During the conference year, we finished three projects which are filling up rapidly. They include Germanna Heights with 50 apartments for seniors in Orange County, Goodson Manor in Farmville with 23 apartments for seniors, and Potomac Woods with 40 apartments for seniors in Woodbridge. In addition, we have joined with another corporation in purchasing Culpeper House with 154 apartments for families in Culpeper, Madison House with 100 apartments in Leesburg, and Millpark Terrace Apartments for seniors in Fredericksburg with 126 apartments. These three complexes were all renovated to make them more attractive and livable. We continue to operate 13 additional projects for seniors and families and six for group homes for handicapped individuals.

We are at the moment constructing 60 senior apartments in Spotsylvania

County, which we have named Enoch George Manor, and we are renovating a 150-apartment complex in Lynchburg for seniors called Meadowbrook Manor. We expect to have under construction in the near future, Peele Manor in Blackstone, which will have 24 apartments for seniors, Garber Manor in Staunton, which will have 24 apartments for seniors, plus 22 more apartments for seniors in Louisa and 24 in the town of Orange. In addition, we will begin construction of another group home for developmentally disabled persons in Rocky Mount.

We give thanks to God that we have been guided to provide for so many persons who need an affordable place to live. We have been a faith-based, nonprofit organization now for 30 years providing a safe and beautiful place to live for many and we pray that during the next 30 years we can do even more to be an advocate for the people of limited income in the Commonwealth.

Robert Regan Jr., *President*

E. UNITED METHODIST FAMILY SERVICES (UMFS)

United Methodist Family Services of Virginia continues to thrive in our mission to touch a life and create a future through a ministry of innovative services to children, families, and communities. We strive to be a world-class leader providing human services that enable children and families to realize their hopes for the future. We continue to provide services in locations around the Commonwealth: Richmond, Tidewater, Northern Virginia, Fredericksburg, Harrisonburg, South Central and Farmville. Services we offer include Residential Treatment for children 11-17, In-Home Services, Mentoring, Early Intervention Group to Prevent Violence, Therapeutic Day School, Senior Housing at Guardian Place Apartments, and a variety of Adoption Services.

The year 2004 was an exciting one for our agency. Highlights include:

- The expansion of our Treatment Foster Care program to our Northern Virginia Office: This program recruits and equips foster families for children with special needs. The program focuses on permanency planning and some families can later adopt children who are placed in their care.
- Beginning of the Virginia's Children of Promise: This program provides mentors for children of incarcerated parents. Volunteers commit to an hour a week for a year of service, and UMFS staff in Richmond and Northern Virginia provides training and support. The Virginia Annual Conference and Virginia Commonwealth University join us in the grant-funded venture.
- Opening of a Residential Cottage for Sexually Reactive Male Youth: This program is uniquely designed for young men age 11-17 who demonstrate their problems through sexual behaviors with others and themselves. Program participants may also have mood disorders, adjustment disorders, anxiety disorders, and developmental disorders.
- Expansion of Therapeutic Day School: We now have two classrooms for youth who, due to special educational and emotional challenges, come to us during the day for a structured educational program that provides treatment in the classroom. After spending the day on our Richmond campus they return home in the evenings.

Our partnership in ministry with the Virginia Annual Conference is essential as together we address the changing needs of children and families.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. United Methodist Family Services of Virginia requests that the relationship between United Methodist Family Services and the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church continue and United Methodist Family

Services will continue to identify itself as an agency of the Virginia Annual Conference.

2. The Virginia Annual Conference will designate December as United Methodist Family Services Month for fund raising in the local churches and members will be encouraged to support United Methodist Family Services.

David Will, *President, Board of Directors*

Myron Simmons, *President, Board Of Associates*

Greg Peters, *Executive Director*

F. VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST HOMES, INC. (VUMH)

Virginia Methodists of the post World War II era had a vision of a home for the aged in the Commonwealth to care for "...laymen and ministers who are members or adherents of the Methodist Church, or other such aged persons..."

Early residents of the Snyder Home on Richmond's Southside, and The Hermitage in Ginter Park benefited from a partnership of the Methodists of Virginia and Virginia Methodist Homes. The church provided leadership, benevolent funding, a pool of residents and an army of volunteers, and even stocked the pantries of the communities with their home-baked and canned goods.

In 2005, the six existing retirement communities of Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. (VUMH) and United Methodists of Virginia carry on that vision with the partnership intact. Nearly 56 years since the organization began, approximately 1,500 volunteers annually give over 35,000 hours of service, and churches, church groups and members give more than \$275,000 of the \$900,000-\$1 million needed for benevolent care.

In addition, over half of the residents of the six communities are United Methodists, the Hermitage Guild and the Regional Advisory Councils are vital links to the local churches, and more than \$42 million is poured annually into the regional economies in which the communities are located.

The vision of providing quality living for older adults continues. While adjustments are made to the proposed WindsorMeade of Williamsburg, presales of apartments and villas are at 85 percent. Chesterfield County is the newest area of interest where VUMH has signed an agreement to purchase 80 acres in an area of high concentration of older adult citizens.

Nominations: At the annual meeting of the Board of Directors on May 19, 2004, Kelli-Mansel Arbuckle, The Honorable James S. Mathews, and Donald D. Sowder were elected as members of the board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc., offering from Mother's Day to Father's Day (May 7-June 18, 2006) be designated for benevolent care.
2. That the Relationship Statement between Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc., and the Virginia Annual Conference be renewed.

Wm. Jeryl Fink, *President*

Gene A. James, *Chairperson, Board of Directors*

IV. DIVISION OF MISSION EDUCATION AND CULTIVATION (MEC)

This year has seen great changes in the MEC Division. With the restructuring program undertaken by the conference Board of Global Ministries, many of the committees previously under MEC have been moved to other divisions. This cannot be seen as a bad thing. As work areas move to other divisions where they can be effective, MEC is free to focus fully on communicating, promoting and educating all the churches in our conference on the mission opportunities in United Methodism.

Work is already under way with a small task group within MEC to create effective visual tools and workshops to get mission information out to every church in the conference. Plans at present focus on yearly information events within each district, led by members of MEC, attended by district Council on Ministries and local church mission representatives. Our goal is to design an effective program where MEC passes mission information from the general church and conference level to districts and local churches clearly and in a timely fashion. This next year promises to be an exciting time for the MEC division and for the local churches of our conference.

Gary Milstead, *Chairperson*

A. ADVANCE COMMITTEE

Through the Advance for Christ and His Church giving, each local congregation has the opportunity to support the mission projects and the missionaries of the United Methodist Church. First we are asked to go the “first mile” in giving by paying 100 percent of our apportionments and then we can go the “second mile” by giving to the Advance.

General Advance giving goes to support

- Salary support for GBGM missionaries
- Mission projects where our conference supported missionaries are in ministry, both national and international.

Remember 100 percent of your giving to Advance goes to the program of project and not for administrative cost.

There are four Special Sunday offering that we are asked to support

- Human Relations Day — Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday observance. The purpose of this offering is to further develop better human relations.
- One Great Hour of Sharing — Fourth Sunday in Lent. This covers the administrative cost of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).
- Native American Ministries — Third Sunday of Easter. Fifty percent stays in the conference to develop Native American Ministries.
- World Communion Sunday — First Sunday in October. This is given for Crusade Scholarships and other Ethnic Scholarships and training.

By giving to Advance for Christ and His Church we are sharing the Good News of the Gospel all around the world.

Barbara T. Reed, *Chairperson*

B. DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Hurricanes Floyd and Isabel have taught us many great lessons resulting in an updated Conference Disaster Response Plan; the revised plan now includes an extensive section on disaster recovery. We have also made available in the disaster plan, forms for working in disaster.

The conference and regional disaster response trailers have proven to be a great resource in response to the disaster from Hurricane Isabel last year in Virginia and also, in extensive response to the very active hurricane season in Florida. In fact, one of the regional trailers has been on site in Port Charlotte, Fla., since shortly after Hurricane Charley. The regional disaster response trailers can be checked out by Volunteer In Mission teams and churches for use in rebuilding projects and localized assistance as well as disaster response trips. The *Disaster Response Trailer Use Agreement Form* can be found in the Conference Disaster Response Plan.

The Conference Disaster Response Team (CDRT) is complete with volunteer personnel in each of the categories. In addition, there is a team leader for each of

the District Disaster Response Teams (DDRT). These district leaders have now been included as part of the active membership of the CDRT.

Frank T. Jennings, *Chairperson*

C. VOICES OF YOUTH 2004, AWAKENING THE UMC TO MISSION

We are United Methodist youth from the Virginia Conference telling the story of the importance of mission in our lives as Christians. Voices of Youth is a mission education program, not just a youth choir. We participate in a “hands on” mission experience, visit missionaries, learn about and visit United Methodist missions, then through a program of music, we challenge congregations in Virginia to BE in mission!

In 2004, high school students from Virginia and England explored our British and Wesleyan mission roots. From Aldersgate and Oxford, to gleaning with the Potato Project, serving at Camp Rainbow Connection, and working at Henry Fork Service Center, the 42 youth of Voices 2004, developed a deep passion for our historical call to mission and a desire to live out their faith by reaching out in their own churches and communities.

The Covenant Tour will be Voices mission emphasis for 2005 as we learn about and promote Covenant Relationships with local churches and General Board of Global Ministries missionaries. The Voices of Youth 2005 team (June 24 to July 10) will travel to the Jubilee Project in Sneedville, Tenn., and meet missionaries and visit projects in the Virginia Conference.

Jan Failes, *Voices Representative*

D. HUNGER COMMITTEE

It is immoral that there is an increasing number of families in this country and others around the world who go without food because they do not have the means to grow their own, or live in poverty and therefore do not have the means to purchase it. The churches of the Virginia Conference have historically helped feed the hungry through food pantries, soup kitchens, and other direct aid such as the Society of St. Andrew. They have responded generously to special appeals. This is very necessary. We will encourage churches to continue and expand these efforts. We will continue to work with the Society of St. Andrew to give members to annual conference the opportunity to bag potatoes.

However, a goal of the hunger committee is to encourage churches to go “One Step Further,” to take the next step and address the root causes of hunger. To do this, we will encourage the churches to educate their congregations and join Bread for the World. Part of this involves writing letters to elected officials. At annual conference in 2004, the members passed a resolution to urge Congress to increase the minimum wage.

Nancy Tew, *Chairperson*

E. SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

The theme for the 2005 School of Christian Mission is *Cornerstones of Hope*. The studies are *Children of the Bible*, *Public Education*, *India/Pakistan*. The Rev. Rhonda VanDyke Colby will be the worship leader for the school to be held in two sessions, July 22-24 and July 25-28. We look forward to coming together as clergy and laity for this exciting and inspirational learning opportunity.

“Prayer, Policy, Politics” was the theme for the 2004 School of Christian Mission. Some 428 students, study leaders and staff attended one of the two sessions. They were involved in the studies of *Concerning Prayer*, *Public Educa-*

tion, and Cuba. The Youth Class also engaged in a mission project during the week and shared their experience at one of the plenaries.

The Virginia Conference is unique in that we have an Intergenerational Class. Parents or grandparents and children work, study and play together in the same class. We are the only conference to offer this opportunity.

The Rev. Alvin Horton was our Bible study leader as he portrayed various biblical characters and incorporated the theme of the school in his presentations. A reception to honor missionaries and project directors was held on Tuesday evening of the school. This affords attendees the opportunity to hear first-hand about mission work both in our conference and abroad.

Nancy Coleman, *Dean*

F. UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

No matter how you look at it, the statistics are amazing. For the fourth consecutive year, the United Methodist Volunteers In Mission movement had quite an impact in our conference. Mission volunteers increased, for the fourth consecutive year. The number of mission teams increased, for the fourth consecutive year. The amount of money raised for projects and team expenses increased, for the fourth consecutive year, and for the first time in our history exceeded \$2 million.

Over 3,600 mission volunteers spread across our state, our nation and 21 countries in 2004, an increase of 30 percent from the previous year. Why such an increase? Certainly, the influence of Hurricane Isabel and the aftermath of Tropical Storm Gaston greatly influenced our people as they responded to needs within our own state. Mission volunteers in the Virginia Conference stepped up to the plate when multiple hurricanes and tropical storms plagued the Southeast United States.

On average, every United Methodist church in the Virginia Conference sent three volunteers on an overnight mission experience in 2004. This average has nearly doubled in four years. The 465 mission teams in 2004 are an increase of 70 percent over the 270 mission teams in 2003.

The mission message of a mission conference continues to grow in the Christ we serve.

C. M. "Kip" Robinson, Jr. *Coordinator*

G. MISSIONARY SUPPORT AND ITINERATION

Every church in the Virginia Conference can join in a covenant relationship with one or more of our General Board of Global Ministries missionaries serving in the United States or around the world. The Covenant Relationship is a mutual relationship of sharing and growing. The church members of covenant churches are inspired to become more committed to God's mission in our world through the missionary outreach.

During this past year there has been a lot of activity with our Virginia Conference missionaries including:

- Hugh and Fritzie Johnson, missionaries serving in Algeria for over 40 years, retired at the end of 2004. They itinerated throughout Virginia for the last three months of the year and plan to settle in France.
- The Virginia Conference had two missionaries under the 10/10/10 plan that have now completed their assignments. Eric Banks was serving on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Peter Jung was serving in Lynchburg.
- Missionary Bob May has been reassigned to Tonga in the South Pacific.
- New Virginia Conference missionaries assigned in the past year are Jacques Akasa and Poto Shutsha (Democratic Republic of Congo); Lucille Bonaventure (Mozambique); Eluzinete Pereira Garcia (Brazil).

- Missionary John Elmore is serving in Chile and will be itinerating in Virginia this year from October through December.

Consider the needs and resources of your congregation. If your church is not currently in a covenant relationship, prayerfully consider entering into a relationship this year. If you are currently a covenant church, you may want to consider the possibility of expanding your missionary support to an additional missionary.

Barbara Shaiko, *Coordinator*

H. RUSSIA INITIATIVE

We are into another year of working with our partners and colleagues in Stavropol and Pyatigorsk, the 11th year since our first mission team arrived there. The Stavropol and Pyatigorsk congregations are supported through the conference Advance and Initiative of Hope allocations. Our conference funds made it possible for the Stavropol congregation to acquire a large, renovated house for worship and ministry. We look forward to joining the congregation and their pastor, Yelena Menyailova, in a dedication of this finalized project. A Volunteer In Mission (VIM) team led by John Speight will visit Stavropol in late June.

Three Virginia Conference churches have agreed to serve as “Supportive Congregations” to the Pyatigorsk church. The three churches are St. Stephens in Burke; Shady Grove in Richmond and West Point in West Point. In February, Pastor Alexander Kozorezov of the Pyatigorsk church visited our conference to itinerate in these three churches. The Pyatigorsk congregation would very much like to have a worship place for themselves. A VIM team led by Sam NeSmith will visit Pyatigorsk in late June.

Virginia United Methodists continue to be involved in mission in Ivanovo, Kiev, and in Chelyanbinsk where Russian church leaders and the American team will cooperate this summer in providing a Vacation Bible School in an orphanage. Paul Phillips will lead a VIM team to Chelyabinsk in July. The Wesley Foundation of William and Mary student exchange and the Russian Children’s Program also continue to be important areas of outreach. David Hindman will lead a team of students from the Foundation in May.

Some \$50,000.00 of the conference offering was made available in 2004 to the Russian orphanages. This year the Russian Seminary in Moscow will be one of the four recipients of the 2005 conference offering. Our Russian colleagues continue to thank us for our witness, hope and love.

Samuel E. NeSmith, *Chairperson*

V. MISSIONS INITIATIVES

A. INITIATIVES OF HOPE

Our four-year Initiatives of Hope (IOH) emphasis on Mozambique, Russia, and Disaster Readiness/Response has resulted in meaningful growth in our understanding of mission in the Virginia Conference. Through IOH we have experienced “mission as relationship” and “mutuality in mission” in exciting new ways.

We celebrate the completion of important goals in the area of Disaster Readiness/Response. These include: the creation of a Conference Disaster Response Team, drafting of our Disaster Response manual (recently updated and improved), the appointment of disaster coordinators in each of our 18 districts, yearly conference and district training events, and the purchase of six disaster response trailers equipped and placed in strategic locations in the conference and available for use

wherever needed. Although our disaster response work will not continue to be a part of Initiatives of Hope in this new quadrennium, we expect that our conference disaster response leaders will continue to seek improvements to make our conference as prepared as possible for any disaster that we might experience in the future.

Russia and Mozambique will remain as mission emphases under Initiatives of Hope for the next four years. Our efforts there will be to continue to build relations and to partner with the United Methodist churches of Russia and Mozambique in mission and ministry. We rejoice in the new church buildings, schools, and other facilities that our financial support has helped to make possible. We have learned much from the visits of United Methodist Volunteer In Mission teams to these countries and, more recently, from welcoming our Russian and Mozambican brothers and sisters to Virginia. As we continue these partnerships we expect God to find ways to use the people called "Methodists" in Virginia, Mozambique and Russia for the mutual upbuilding of the church.

A new focus on Brazil has been added to Initiatives of Hope, providing new opportunities for mission in Latin America. Our initial focus will be on ministry with street children. We look forward to launching this new component of Initiatives of Hope at a service of worship at annual conference.

Dot Ivey, *President*

B. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON MISSION PERSONNEL (CCMP)

The Committee on Mission Personnel planned and conducted "interview training" as the priority for this past year. New techniques were developed and categories of questions were established for three areas of interest — Faith Journey; Service and Leadership; Community and Health/Self-Care. The committee practiced these new techniques as three candidates, who were interested in mission service, were interviewed and subsequently recommended to the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM).

There are currently 967 United Methodist/GBGM-supported mission personnel serving in 66 different nations. A limited number of missionaries will be commissioned in the spring and fall of 2005 based on the number of invitations received from international partner churches and national openings. The 10-10-10, the Missioners of Hope and the Korean Mission Pastor programs will all conclude in 2005.

Darlene Amon, *Chairperson*

RECOMMENDATIONS GENERAL ADVANCE SPECIALS — 2005

1. That the newly expanded and edited manual for disaster response and recovery, as posted on the Virginia Conference Web site <www.vaumc.org>, shall become the Virginia Conference Disaster Response and Recovery Plan.
2. That the following Advance Specials be approved for 2005

National Ministries

1. **District of Columbia: Christ House.** A recovery facility that provides for homeless men (#381215)
2. **Kentucky: Red Bird Mission, Inc. Beverly.** Community education and outreach programs to remote areas (#773726)
3. **Tennessee: Jubilee Project, Inc., Sneedville.** Leadership development and community organizing in a poverty area (#781350)

4. **North Carolina: Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville.** Resource and training center for small membership rural churches (#731372)
5. **West Virginia: McDowell Mission, Inc., Gary.** An ecumenical and local outreach program. (#391515)
6. **Southeastern Jurisdiction Agency for Native American Ministries, Lake Junaluska.** Initiates and supports work with Native Americans (#791842)
7. **New Mexico: Four Corners Native American Ministry. Facilities, Shiprock.** Construction of church facilities on the Navajo Reservation. (#581255)
8. **Kentucky: Henderson Settlement, Frakes.** Programs for disadvantage teenagers, parents and the elderly (#773365)
9. **Virginia: Society of St. Andrew Potato Project, Big Island.** Salvages potatoes and other produce for distribution nationwide (#801600)
10. **National Hispanic Ministries Challenge Fund.** Develops new Hispanic ministries. (#982620)
11. **Florida: Children and Youth Services, Tampa.** Ministries for needy infants, children and youth. (#751202)
12. **Virginia: Henry Fork Service Center.** Ministries to children and youth in the Franklin County area. (#803220)
13. **Virginia: Agape Christian Children's Community Center.** A loving, caring environment for preschoolers and after-school children on Eastern Shore. (#803178)
14. **Virginia: Petersburg Urban Ministries.** Improvement of the economic health and the spiritual environment (#803405)
15. **South Dakota: Tree of Life Ministry.** A ministry with Native Americans at the Rosebud and Crow Creek Reservations (#123615)

International Ministries

1. **Cuba: All-Purpose Camp, Havana.** Methodist camp to hold pastors' conferences and youth meetings (#11285N)
2. **Mozambique: Chicupe Rural Hospital, Inhambane.** Major medical center for rural areas (#09734A)
3. **Cambodia: Cambodia Mission Initiative.** Evangelization and community ministries (#14915A)
4. **Nepal: Tansen United Mission Hospital, Equipment, Tansen.** Gifts will buy various surgical and anesthetic equipment (#12415A)
5. **Brazil: Centro Comunitario Metodista Program, Olinda.** Development of educational activities with the community, enabling them to become conscious of their economic, social, environment region and human rights. (#14321A)
6. **India: Medical Development Program.** Trains paramedics and community health personnel (#06726A)
7. **Russia Initiative.** Funding for programs and United Methodist pastors' salaries in Stavropol and Pyatigorsk (#660-49000)
8. **Sierra Leone: Child Rescue Center.** Enlarge the facility for more orphaned children. (#14362N)
9. **South America and Caribbean: Encounter with Christ.** Project of evangelization, community health for children and women (#025100)
10. **Japan.** Shelter, counseling and legal advice for women unscrupulously lured to Japan and exploited by employers (#10442A)
11. **Chile. Advance Projects in the Northern District (PADIN), Iquique.** Assistance with ongoing operating expenses (#14058A)

12. **Ecuador.** Salaries and continuing education for pastors (#14303A)

United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) Specials

1. **Southeast Asia Emergency.** Provides relief to those affected by the tsunami (#274305)
2. **Latin America/Brazil: Mother/Child Survival Community Health Training.** Education in areas of child health care (#701235)
3. **Africa: Hunger and Development.** Provides resources for self-help programs (#101900)
4. **Heifer Project International.** Provides animals to rural families (#982530)
5. **Indonesia: Irrigation Pump.** Pumps for the drilling of wells (#014186)
6. **New Hope for Newcomers.** Provides assistance to refugees resettled by UMCOR. (#901779)
7. **African Regional: Children's Ministries.** Food, clothing, education and medicine (#101225)
8. **India: CASA - Relief and Development.** Basic needs and community development (#212370)
9. **Volunteers In Mission, Southeastern Jurisdiction.** Assists those offering their skills in this country and abroad (#901875)
10. **Algeria: Better Nutrition for Sahrawi Refugee Children.** Provides fresh fruits and vegetables to children (#102105)
11. **Landmine Removal:** Implementation of appropriate landmine removal system (#982575)
12. **Ministry with the Deaf.** Christian education resources, telecommunication devices (#982562)

Virginia Conference Advance Specials

1. **Community Outreach Program of Roanoke.** A community outreach program of Trinity United Methodist Church in Roanoke is dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing environment where all God's children can know and experience the love and teaching of Christ. Fifty-plus children participate in weeknight tutoring, enrichment activities and Christian programming as well as attending Sunday school and worship. They are also provided with a Clothes Closet and dinner three nights a week. This is a project of the General Board of Global Ministries.**
2. **New Churches of the Virginia Conference.** This would support new ethnic minority churches launched within the Virginia Conference since 1998 (Alexandria District: Mission La Esperanza and New Light Korean; Arlington: Iglesia Metodista Unida Gracia; Eastern Shore: New Mission UMC; Winchester, Amor y Paz IMU); new churches that have not yet been chartered (Arlington: Vietnamese; Ashland: New Season; Peninsula: Grace Harbor); and two churches relocated since 1998 (Harrisonburg: Vision of Hope; Roanoke: Three Oaks Fellowship)
3. **Hispanic Ministries of Roanoke.** This is a mission project of the Roanoke District and is serving the Hispanic community of the Roanoke Valley offering services, worship, advocacy and a community of faith. **
4. **Casa de Amistad.** This is an outreach ministry to the Hispanic population of Waynesboro. Its main focus is ESL tutoring, summer day camp, furniture distribution, food bank, bilingual Sunday school and worship services.
5. **Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic.** The clinic is in operation twice a month in the Community Center at the Mattaponi Reservation. People of seven tribes come for their health care needs.

6. **Special Support for GBGM Missionaries of VA Projects.** This would provide housing and project cost for missionaries assigned to Virginia mission projects.
7. **Eastern Shore UMC Hispanic Ministry.** Providing worship and teaching experiences to the Hispanic community on the Eastern Shore.
8. **Park View Community Mission.** All people are invited to participate in this ministry through Bible study, worship and helping to bring a change in their lives.

** *These Virginia Conference Specials are also receiving conference support from Healing the Hurts of Virginia.*

BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

In response to our conference vision statement, the Board of Discipleship seeks to provide vision, leadership development and practical models that will help our conference congregations and other ministry settings be places where we can be nurtured in faith and growing in Christ.

The Division of Education, under the leadership of Sandra Stanley, continues to provide resources and training events to the local church. Individual educators are available for consultation and training through Teaching Learning Connection. The Outdoor Camping and Retreat Ministry with five camps touch thousands of lives through their summer camp programs, retreats and activities. In October 2004, the division sponsored *Transforming Churches Through Small Groups* which focused on the use of small groups for effective ministries. In the spring of 2005, training was held for local churches in *Beginnings*, a small group introduction to the Christian faith designed for seekers and explorers who desire an intentional walk with God that encourages a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In August and September, regional events will lift up the ministry of the Sunday school through the Christian Education Sunday Offering funds with workshop and resources for *Sunday School: It's for Life!* .

The Division of Evangelism, co-chaired by Jim Driscoll and Kirk Nave, has the task of helping local churches invite people to meet Jesus Christ. The division offered the second biannual Stockton Academy for Evangelism at Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Stafford, Va., on April 13, 2004. The keynote speaker was the Rev. Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of Church of the Resurrection United Methodist Church, Leawood, Kan., and the guest preacher was the Rev. Rodney Smothers of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The division also instituted Growing Healthy Churches, based on Natural Church Development. This is a ministry which has worked well to grow churches in other annual conferences and in other denominations. Over 30 coaches were trained to mentor over 40 participating congregations throughout the Virginia Conference. The division will be monitoring these congregations over several years, and will be inviting other congregations to participate in this ongoing process. The division is also proud to announce the recipients of the 2005 Harry Denman Award for Evangelism: Patty Morell (lay) and the Rev. Tom Berlin (clergy), both of Floris Church, Herndon, Va., Arlington District.

The Division of Spiritual Formation, chaired by Betsy Caudill, continues to strive toward the goal of helping all God's people to be "nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world." In 2005, the Division of Spiritual Formation will continue its emphasis on *Companions in Christ*, a 28-week small-group resource from Upper Room Ministries that builds spiritual practices and community within congregations, helping participants open more fully to God and to one another. The division and Upper Room Ministries will co-sponsor a one-day leader training event for *Companions* on Saturday, August 20, 2005, at Asbury United Methodist Church in Harrisonburg, Va. (to register, contact the Upper Room at

<www.companionsinchrist.org>). In 2004, the division also sponsored a directed spiritual retreat, May 10-12, at Camp Overlook. The retreat was a small-group experience for both laity and clergy in individual spiritual direction, prayer, and community worship.

A Summer Read is the newest publication of the Division of Spiritual Formation. It is the offspring of the popular Lent and Advent/Lent devotional books which were offered annually to readers in our conference for over 10 years. This publication is anticipated to come out in the summer of 2005 in a magazine format. Featuring the contributions of writers, poets, artists, calligraphers, composers, and photographers throughout the laity and clergy of the Virginia Conference, it is hoped it will encourage and deepen spiritual life and practices.

The division has updated its conference Web site link (see <www.vaumc.org>; “Ministries;” “Discipleship;” then “Division of Spiritual Formation” link). One of the best additions to its Web site link is the Upper Room’s tool, “Seed Kit for Spiritual Formation.” The Seed Kit offers many helpful suggestions on how to develop or enhance spiritual formation programs in the local church. An updated version of a retreat center catalogue is included on the Web site. The canvas labyrinth, sponsored by the division and housed at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC), continues to be available for use as a contemplative spiritual discipline at the assembly center and in local churches.

The Division of Worship, under the leadership of co-chairs Thomas Andrew and Susan Smith, provides education for the local church about our relationship with God through worship by several means: workshops, such as the intergenerational worship in Warrenton on April 30, 2005, the conference Web site, sharing information from the Bi-annual Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts Convocation, designing worship for the annual Virginia Conference Council on Ministries retreat in November and assisting the bishop in the planning and implementation of worship services at annual conference events.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Discipleship recommends that each local church in the Virginia Annual Conference shall observe a Christian Education Sunday during September-October 2005, and shall promote and receive the Christian Education Special Offering (50 percent of which remains in their district for teaching-learning ministries while the other 50 percent supports teaching-learning ministries through the conference Board of Discipleship Division of Education.)

Joe Cailles, *President*

COMMISSION ON ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS

The Commission on Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC) continues to partner with ethnic disciples to promote vital, self-sufficient ministries as an integral part of the Virginia Conference in the areas of program funding, vision-sharing, and network-supporting among the ethnic ministries.

One significant decision by the 2004 General Conference on ELCC is: **Commission on Ethnic Local Church Concerns** shall be a committee in every annual conference or other structure to provide for these basic functions and to maintain connectional relationship.

It shall provide for these functions:

- Keeping the vision of ethnic local church concerns before the annual conference,
- Providing guidance and resources to churches in the annual conference as they minister with and to ethnic constituencies,
- Coordinating annual conference strategies related to ethnic local church concerns including general church emphases and initiatives,

- Providing a forum for dialogue among the ethnic constituencies, as well as with annual conference agencies,
- Providing training for annual conference and congregational leaders,
- Promoting and interpreting ethnic local church concerns to the annual conference, and
- Working with annual conferences to identify and nurture leaders, both lay and clergy, of ethnic communities.

Grants for Ethnic Ministries

<u>District/Church</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Grants Awarded</u>
E/Agape Christian Children's Center	Afterschool Program for K-2	\$ 4,000.00
S/Pleasant View UMC/ Ram in the Bush	Feeding Program	4,000.00
N/Resurrection UMC	National Filipino Youth Conference	3,000.00
Ad/Fredericksburg UMC	LUCHA Ministries	2,000.00
Rd/BMCR	Harambee 2005	4,000.00
S/Casa de Amistad	English Classes for non-English Speaking Adults	5,000.00
E/Migrant Ministry Project	Spread Gospel to 104 Migrant Camps	6,000.00
Pt/Petersburg Urban Ministry	Training in Food Service Management/Shalom Foods	<u>7,000.00</u>
Total		\$35,000.00

We are excited once again to make this report as we find new direction and ministry support in the ethnic local churches. A word of appreciation to each chairperson of ethnic ministry who provided the report and to Anna Workman and Pat Hickman for their continuous staff support.

Won H. Un, *Chairperson*

The African American Ministries

Pastors of African American congregations from around the United States gathered in Atlanta, Jan. 4-7, for their biannual conference sponsored by the United Methodist Board of Discipleship. The theme, "Tarrying for Power," pointed the pastors to the Holy Spirit as the source of ministerial strength.

There were 10 pastors and District Superintendent Clarence Brown who attended the convocation from the Virginia Annual Conference.

The Rev. Lorenzo Hill attended the National Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) in Atlantic City, N.J. The youth of our African American churches attended Harambee in Fayetteville, N.C.

J. Avery Miller, *Chairperson*

The Hispanic Ministries

1. Ministerios L.U.C.H.A. (Latinos Unidos por Cristo en Hermandad y Apoyo)
2. GRACE Ministries has expanded its service and opened a new site at Floris United Methodist Church in the Herndon area with plans to open another site in the Ashburn area in Northern Virginia. More than 1,000 toys, coats, mittens and baby items were distributed at Christmas at the different sites.
3. Niños de la Esperanza has offered tutoring and mentoring to more than a 100 children across the Alexandria and Arlington districts. In a combined effort with local churches and Camp Highroad youth, they offered an innovative summer camp for Hispanic children at Gracia United Methodist Church.
4. Project Transformation served 30 kids in elementary school with the support of

- the school system, five interns, and many volunteers who served as reading tutors and shared their special talents in enrichment activities. The day was made up of reading, Bible study, singing, sports activities, craft activities, and special field trips at Basic United Methodist Church in Waynesboro.
5. Three Hispanic pastors serving Hispanic congregations were ordained elders during our last annual conference.
 6. Twenty five Hispanic ministries are actively serving the needs of the Latino communities all around the Virginia Conference and many others are in the process of planning, dreaming and organizing new ministries. New communities of faith are being developed at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Woodbridge, Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon, and Crossroads United Methodist Church in Ashburn.
 7. The Hispanic Ministries Task Force organized the distribution of the 2004 Virginia Conference offering to appropriately support the Hispanic ministries and open doors to new emerging ones. We also prepared a matching grant request to the General Board of Global Ministries that will be submitted in the summer and considered during fall.

Ileana Rosas, *Chairperson*

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

The Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) has been working to fill the vacancies on this commission. This has also given us an opportunity to become more diverse in our representation and build a better structure. This has given the CORR new vitality and momentum to move forward with some new programming for 2005-2006.

Our first goal for 2005-2006 is to provide Cultural Sensitivity Training for the Virginia Conference. We have designed two phases for our training events. The first phase of this training will be for the CORR on May 7, 2005, at the Virginia United Methodist Center in Glen Allen, and will be facilitated by the Rev. Neal Christie, assistant general secretary of Ministry of Education and Leadership for the General Board of Church and Society for the United Methodist Church. Christie is the producer of the documentary, *Forged by Fire*. This documentary highlights the cultural diversity of the United Methodist Church and the struggles of the different ethnic groups. Christie has designed a program to help us celebrate our individual ethnicity and culture. The event will include each CORR district representative; they will be given training, materials, and a copy of the video. The CORR representatives are expected to return to their districts to offer the same training event with the video and the materials.

The second phase of the training will be offered to all of the district superintendents, and to all of the conference staff on Nov. 7, 2005. Our goal is to provide several training opportunities, anticipating new energy to promote a more nurturing and inviting environment. Our goal is for all churches in the Virginia Conference to become more receptive and welcoming to people of all races, ethnic backgrounds, and cultures.

We're also partnering with the General Commission on Religion and Race to offer continuous Culture Sensitivity Training and Monitoring Training.

In addition, we are planning our annual conference breakfast at the Virginia Annual Conference, June 14, 2005, 7 a.m., at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Hampton. The Bishop's Convocation on Religion and Race will be held Sept. 17, 2005, at Reveille United Methodist Church, Richmond, and Bishop Charlene Kammerer will be our speaker.

Jan Prentace, *Chairperson*

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

The Virginia Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) serves to bring about the full inclusion of women in the life of the United Methodist Church. Our charge is to challenge the church to “a continuing commitment to the full and equal responsibility and participation of women in the total life and mission of the church.” We advocate on behalf of women so they may claim their rightful place in decision-making arenas in the church. We are catalysts, working within the structures of the church to raise awareness of including women in church activities. We continue our mission of monitoring to ensure the ideal of a truly inclusive table.

Our fall retreat was a joint gathering with the Commission on Religion and Race where we became acquainted, shared our common mission of inclusion, and prepared to work together on the Common Table. During the retreat we discussed our mutual goal of inclusion for all people at all levels of the church and worked to find ways to provide opportunities for full inclusion across the conference. Both commissions expressed concern for lack of representation in every district.

COSROW members renewed one of their long-standing goals to have a woman pastor in the pulpit of each church in the Virginia Annual Conference at least one Sunday during the year.

The vision statement of the Virginia Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women reflects our hopes, dreams, and goals for the conference: “We envision churches where all God’s people are welcomed into full participation and are treated with love, justice, and respect.”

Neola Waller and Sue Ann Salmon, *Co-Chairpersons*

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The Virginia United Methodist Commission on Disabilities (COD) affirms the responsibility of the church to be in ministry with all persons, regardless of their physical and/or mental conditions. The commission fulfills this responsibility through advocacy, education and direct services, in the belief that all people are one in the Body of Christ.

Funds come from two sources: World Service and Conference Benevolences, and the local church. All monies donated support the Accessibility and Program Grants, Respite Grants, Camper Scholarships, Camp Rainbow Connection, Annual Conference Accessibility with ASL interpreters and Computer Assisted Notetaking (CAN), and large print materials; the Deaf Ministry Team, printing of materials in Braille for churches, district and conference events, and individuals, provides resource materials to the local churches, districts, and conference and assists the local church in program development, and provides Disability Awareness Sunday resources.

The Committee on Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind and Blindness/Visual Impairments continues to address services and programs that will meet the needs of individuals with these physical conditions so that all may be brought to the table as part of the Body of Christ.

The commission will continue to issue grants to churches for accessibility, programs, and respite. It will continue to finish and place the accessibility audits’ new format on the Web site, and continue to encourage the local churches to complete their audits. A new camp for children who are deaf is being planned at Camp Overlook on August 12-14, 2005, and plans are being developed to hold a camp for persons who are blind in 2006.

Donna Mott, *Chairperson*

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

In response to the comprehensive Communications Audit carried out in 2000-2001 and the Common Table Task Force, our primary focus is resourcing the local church. There are a number of ways in which we perform that task:

- 1) The *Virginia Advocate* is an excellent monthly news magazine for all Virginia United Methodists. It reports stories of discipleship and offers ideas, news, and inspiration for local churches.
- 2) **Igniting Ministry** (“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”) was continued by the 2004 General Conference and thus remains an important aspect of reaching and welcoming others for Christ. We offer grants on an annual cycle for churches, districts and groups of churches wishing to extend their witness into the larger community. In addition, Igniting Ministry training, which teaches churches how to be more welcoming, is offered on a regular basis. Thus far, 935 Virginia United Methodists have received at least level-one training.
- 3) Our **conference Web site**, <www.vaumc.org>, continues to be more widely used, as many resources for all aspects of church life are being placed online for free.
- 4) Last year, we published *Resourcing the Local Church* for the first time. Included in this booklet is information about various ministries, resources, and staff assistance available through the Virginia Conference.
- 5) We continue to partner with the conference Board of Global Ministries to publish *Invitation to a Feast*, which features the many areas of mission work within the United Methodist Church and ways each local church or individual can link up to that ministry.
- 6) In addition, we offer a variety of communications-related **training events** on a local church, district, area or conference-wide basis. This year, we trained a number of persons in videography, Web ministry, and Igniting Ministry skills. In the current year, we are developing workshops in the areas of technology and print media (bulletins and bulletin board presentation) to be offered in a variety of settings. We provide many print, media, and electronic resources to help the local church communicate more effectively with its members, its community, and the secular media.
- 7) The **Media Center** provides over 2,000 multimedia resources for the local church to use for programming, education, training, and inspiration. A yearly subscription fee based on a sliding scale according to church size makes access to these quality resources very affordable.
- 8) *Neighbors* is another online tool available for local churches in their outreach ministries. Designed as a customizable mailer for reaching prospective members, it is now available (free!) for download from our conference Web site. With local churches doing their own printing (or copying), *Neighbors* can be more economical and can be sent at more exact times to promote local church events.
- 9) *The Sunday Advocate*, a weekly electronic bulletin insert highlighting news of interest to United Methodists, is sent out weekly to subscribers and posted on the conference Web site.

We are grateful to a strong and capable staff, under the leadership of Carole Vaughn as the Director of Communications. Larry Jent is completing his second year as the editor of the *Virginia Advocate* and associate director of communications for print media; with Debbie Duty continuing as production coordinator. Bryan Compton heads the Information Technology staff, with Pheath Ram assisting. Brenda Capen is webmaster, database manager and editor of the *Journal*. Violet Durette coordinates the Media Center. Peggy Cribbs is administrative assistant for the Communications/*Advocate* office. Along with an excellent, hard-working board, we are moving into the realm of 21st century communications.

For answers to your communications questions, feel free to call 1-800-768-6040, or (804) 521-1100, requesting the communications office.

RECOMMENDATION

Because the *Virginia Advocate* continues to be a quality publication, which enhances the ministry of the whole conference, and because the *Virginia Advocate* is a strong tool for training new members in United Methodism, and because the *Virginia Advocate* is critical for disseminating information for all areas of mission and ministry in the Virginia Conference:

The Virginia Conference Board of Communications desires that each lay member and pastor invite the key leadership (pastor, lay leader, evangelism chairperson, stewardship chairperson, and United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men leaders) of every local church to subscribe to the *Virginia Advocate*. In addition, we strongly encourage all local churches to give each new member one subscription per household for their first year. And, finally, we recommend that every local church designate October for their annual *Advocate* subscription campaign, focused on “Equipping the Saints.”

Doug Paysour, *President*

COUNCIL ON AGE LEVEL AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

During the past year this council has continued to provide an integrated and coordinated approach in the development of resources and support to the local church for ministry with all age levels.

Children’s Ministry: Change has been the key word in the Children’s Division as we are blessed with new conference staff individual and new co-chairpersons.

Faithsteps, a printed source of ideas and guidance for workers with children in the local church (evolving soon into electronic media) is once again being published after a short hiatus. Several roundtable forums are being planned throughout the conference which will facilitate networking opportunities through which persons will share ministry ideas and information. In conjunction with the Children’s Initiative, “Safe Sanctuaries” training is being provided with plans for a conference team to be available in 2006 for district and regional training events.

Youth Ministry: This area is continuing to be seen as a vital, strong, and effective ministry in our conference. Our programs and events truly welcome all youth at table, enabling them to be nurtured and transformed to become Christ to others. The exciting and wide array of activities and events designed for youth include the Fall Retreats, Mission Events, Awakening, Youth Advocates for Christ, VUMDYLA and the United Nations Seminar, to name but a few. Our youth are reaching boldly with open hands across this annual conference to be in ministry. Our Virginia Conference youth are once again number one in the world in Youth Service Fund support by raising, with your help, over \$46,000.00 to support missions to and for youth throughout the world.

Young Adult Ministry: As mandated in the new *Discipline*, we have now formed a Conference Council on Young Adult Ministry! We are eager and excited to begin to address the needs of young adults in our conference and ways to more effectively resource the ministries to this age group in the local church and beyond.

Single Adult Ministry: This area continues to expand its reach, seeking to connect single adults of all ages and experiences with congregations and ministries that foster spiritual growth. In March, an e-mail group was set up: *VaSinglesNet* is created to connect persons interested in singles ministry with others, leaders, information and ideas. *The Singles Connection Council* plans

activities and serves to resource persons and congregations to assist in developing vital singles ministries.

The annual singles retreat was held at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) May 20-22, 2005. The theme was “Abundant Living” with guest speaker Maury Stout, and contemporary Christian musician John Ivins.

Older Adult Ministry: This section is working to acquire individuals who are willing to be official trainers in the area of Older Adult Ministry. These people will attend the Southeastern Jurisdiction Older Adult Training and then establish a resource network and serve as trainers in their geographical areas throughout the conference to consult as needed to enhance Older Adult Ministry in local churches. In addition, these trainers will develop communication materials to be sent to the churches.

Michel Q. Mayton, *Chairperson*

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Just as it is the primary responsibility of the General Board of Church and Society to “seek the implementation of the Social Principles. . .” and to “provide forthright witness and action on issues of human well-being, justice, peace, and the integrity of creation. . .” (United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, ¶1004), so, too, it is the responsibility of the conference Board of Church and Society to seek the implementation of the Social Principles in local communities, the nation, and the world. To help facilitate that goal, the Virginia Conference Board of Church and Society has been active on a number of fronts.

First, believing that “the Church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting policies and programs deemed to be just and opposing policies and programs that are unjust” (United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, ¶164B), the conference Board of Church and Society continues to work with the conference United Methodist Women to sponsor the Conference Legislative Network (CLN). The CLN provides concerned United Methodists with timely, accurate information on legislation before the General Assembly. In addition, the CLN organizes the annual United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. This year, Beth Parker and her team did an extraordinary job of orchestrating United Methodist Day. They deserve a heartfelt round of applause for their well-organized and effective leadership.

Second, to help districts and local congregations better respond to contemporary issues, the Board of Church and Society has recruited Jeanne Finley to serve as its Web writer. Every month Jeanne posts new information and resources on the Board of Church and Society Web site. Culled from a number of regional and national Web sites, information is selected because of its usefulness for districts and local churches. The goal is to help church members fulfill their baptismal promise to “accept the freedom and power God gives. . . to resist evil, injustice, and oppression. . .”

To visit the Board of Church and Society Web site, go to the Virginia Conference Web site <www.vaumc.org>, click “Ministries,” and then click “Church and Society.” *Church and Society News Briefs* is located on the left sidebar.

Third, to help churches become more effective stewards of God’s creation, the Board of Church and Society is launching a “Green Church Initiative.” The “Green Church Initiative” will provide local churches with guidelines and resources for incorporating a concern for God’s creation into their worship, Christian education program, and church’s lifestyle. The program will also help local churches become involved in local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment.

Churches who successfully meet the established criteria will be publicly recognized by the board for their status as “Green” churches.

Fourth, in an effort to heal the scars caused by crime and violence, the board continues to support the work of the conference’s Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries (CCJM). The purpose of CCJM is to help restore the relationships between prisoners, their families, their victims, and the larger faith community. As part of their work, CCJM trains chaplains in Disciple Bible Study, offers Disciple Bible Study in state prisons, provides workshops in prison ministries for local churches and districts, and trains district CCJM coordinators. Utilizing a model developed by the Oklahoma Conference, CCJM hopes in 2006 to prepare local churches to become “Redemption Churches” — churches trained and committed to welcoming ex-offenders and their families into the worship, study, and fellowship life of the congregation.

Fifth, knowing that the values of peace and justice should be an early part of every Christian’s spiritual formation, the board’s Work Area on Peace with Justice is inviting senior high youth to submit essays this year for its first Peace with Justice Essay Contest. This year’s contest invites students to identify and highlight a peace and justice issue that they feel is important to this generation of young people. The essays will be judged and the winners will be announced at this year’s annual conference Peace with Justice Breakfast.

Finally, drawing on the historic Wesleyan connections between discipleship and social justice, the Board of Church and Society is laying the groundwork this year for a major convocation on economic justice. Titled “Proclaiming Good News to the Poor: A Conference on Economic Justice,” this major training event will be offered during the spring of 2006 and will provide congregations with the practical skills that they need to proclaim Good News to the poor in word and action. Tex Sample will be the keynote speaker for this event and the convocation will offer workshops that equip people of faith to serve as advocates for the poor and to work for justice for those who struggle to make a life for themselves on the economic margins.

As the gospel itself must be told and retold in ever fresh and ever faithful ways, so too the implications of the gospel must be applied and reapplied to each new manifestation of the age-old struggles for peace and justice. On behalf of the board, I applaud all that the churches of the Virginia Conference are doing to bring about that day when

“No more shall the sound of weeping be heard. . .
or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be. . .
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime. . .
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity. . .
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox. . .
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain.”

— *Isaiah 65:19-25*

Gary Robbins, *Co-Chairperson*

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

The work of developing leaders is a never-ending one in the life of the church, and it is certainly true that there is always a shortage of good leaders. The Virginia Annual Conference was wise in creating an organization whose only job is to specifically address the task of developing leaders in the life of the church.

How does one develop leaders? If there were some “magic bullet” one could employ there would be no need for a Leadership Development Institute (LDI) — we would all be experts at the process of leadership development and would simply do it. But there is no magic bullet. Being an effective leader is as much a process of instinct as it is skills acquisition. The Leadership Development Institute board tries to accomplish the task of helping find and develop leaders through the work of three divisions and some of the most “out of the box” thinking individuals in the conference.

The Division of Leadership University did a study some years ago as to why the number of people attending training events around Virginia was on the decline. We discovered that the needs of various regions of the conference are different — no “one size fits all” event would have universal appeal. Also, driving great distances seems to be a problem for many. As a response to that, LDI through this division entered into a covenant relationship with Christian Communications Network (CCN), an organization that beamed high-quality training programs through satellite hookups. It wasn’t cheap for the local church to enter into this service, so LDI began to help local churches by fully funding the first year expenses of going online with CCN. And we sponsor three to four events per year, which can oftentimes provide CEU credit. Our goal is to create a network so that no one has to drive more than an hour for quality training. At the time of this writing, we have seven satellite dish-equipped churches on our network, with two more going in this year. We have featured programs in the areas of conflict management, stewardship, and effective leadership tools, for both clergy and laity. The response to this program has been good. Many people have attended, and for the most part they rave about the programming! See our update on the conference Web site for future program dates and locations, or go to <www.ccnonline.com>.

The Division of Church Enhancement works with local churches through “Healthy Congregations” and “Bridgebuilder” consultations. We have trained consultants who work with local churches on matters of conflict management and disfunction, as well as help churches reach higher than they currently are able. Usually, district superintendents make contact with us on behalf of the local churches, though at times the church itself has made the contact. Seven local church situations have received consultants in the last year, and seven district trainings have also been done, all with positive results.

In addition to the above, the Division of Clergy Development works with the Board of Ordained Ministry to help create learning events for clergy to develop and polish their skills for ministry. A brochure on their work is available in the LDI office. We also have empowered a special task force to work on a biannual workshop on church staffing. You’ll be reading and hearing more about that in the near future. And of course, the Virginia Conference chapter of PAUMCS (Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries) was started through an LDI initiative several years ago. This organization offers support and training for church secretaries, administrative assistants, and office managers, all of whom offer valuable support to many of our churches.

It goes without saying that we will miss the Rev. C.B. King, who retires as dean of the LDI at this annual conference. He has provided countless hours of valuable service, guidance, and leadership for the work of the LDI. Our prayers are with him

as he begins this new phase of servant leadership. We look forward to the Rev. Tom Joyce joining us as the new dean, and know that his experience and insight will be invaluable for what we are about. And I would be remiss not to thank Mrs. Janice Adams for her dedication and insight in helping us keep our day-to-day operations going. This board of talented laity and clergy is a blessing both to me and to the conference.

G. Keith Almond, *Chairperson*

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION MINISTRIES

The Board of Higher Education Ministries (BHEM) oversees two related types of ministry: the relationship between the Virginia Annual Conference and the United Methodist-related colleges, universities and the academy within the boundaries of the conference; and the campus ministry programs (strictly United Methodist and ecumenical partnerships) at state schools within the conference. The board rotates its meetings between church-related schools and campus ministry sites. The board met this year at the University of Mary Washington and at Randolph-Macon College.

Most of our time this past year was spent assessing our strengths and weaknesses as a board and planning for future work. We spent two days at Camp Overlook in July 2004 working with a consultant to develop a vision statement for our board and reconsider the way the board is structured. As a result, we wrote and affirmed the following Board of Higher Education Ministries Vision Statement:

Aware of the extraordinary opportunities inherent in higher education for making disciples of Jesus Christ, nurturing all God's children and transforming society, the BHEM commits itself to:

- wrestling with and articulating what it means to be involved in higher education in the Wesleyan spirit
- fostering collegiality among campus ministers and chaplains and supporting them and their ministries
- enabling creative and innovative ministries
- communicating with local churches and districts the value of higher education ministries
- equipping local churches for ministries with students in their congregation and on area campuses

This statement led the board to restructure our committees. Thus far, we have found that the time we spent in retreat has led to a stronger, more united group of dedicated ministers, educators, and laypersons who are committed to following this vision and working to create a place where all are welcomed at table at all our United Methodist-related colleges and campus ministry programs across the conference.

Theresa J. Carroll, *Chairperson*

FERRUM COLLEGE

Ferrum College Dean of the Chapel and Religious Life, the Rev. Wes Astin, continues to do an extraordinary job of providing spiritual guidance and ministry to our students, faculty, staff and community members. Wes works diligently with our students to enhance their opportunities for student involvement in campus ministry. A course taught by Wes in the spring semester was titled "Mission from a Biblical Perspective." At the beginning of the semester, students in the class organized a campus-wide campaign to raise funds for victims of the South Asia tsunami. The money raised was channeled to the area through the United Method-

ist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). During spring break, the students participated in a "Volunteer In Mission" project and traveled with Wes to the Czech Republic where they worked with the Majak Youth Center of the United Methodist Church of Vrosovce. The project allowed Ferrum students to teach conversational English in the public schools. The Czech students were then invited to the Majak Center in order to introduce them to the center and the church. Twenty-two students visited the center, and relationships between the United Methodist youth of Prague and other area youth began. Vrosovce Church leaders were so enthused about this first outreach endeavor that dialogue has started about creating a covenant relationship between Ferrum College and the United Methodist Church of Vrosovce.

An exciting event was held on campus on April 15, the "All God's Children Tour," a free Christian concert to which area youth were invited and offered campus tours prior to the event. The concert featured current recording artists Building 429, Tree 63, and Paul Coleman.

In addition to campus ministry projects, many of our students participate in off-campus service learning projects as well. Our Bonner Scholars continue to work closely with the Henry Fork Service Center and the St. James United Methodist Food and Clothing Center. This year, 13 of the Bonner Scholars participated in a service trip to Santarém, Brazil, during spring break. The students worked with the *Pastoral do Menor* Community Center, which provides social and educational programming for children. The students helped with construction work on a satellite school and participated in cultural and outdoor events. Other student organizations continue to work with the local Habitat for Humanity, tutor at the local elementary school, etc.

We are celebrating several significant milestones this year. Our student newspaper, *The Iron Blade*, is completing its 50th year of publication. Our highly acclaimed Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre has reached its 25th anniversary. In addition, Ferrum's football program celebrated its 50th anniversary on May 20-22, 2005.

We are also heralding a number of new and exciting initiatives and programs. Construction has begun on FerrumPLUS! (Project Leading to Undergraduate Success) and includes the renovation and refurbishing of several historic buildings on campus, construction of a new residence hall, and the renovation of Franklin Hall with the addition of an alumni and student center. The project should be totally completed in 2006, and the benefits to our students, alumni, and guests will be tremendous. The new residence hall, to be located in the center of campus, will include apartment-style living spaces and community areas. Two of our oldest buildings, Beckham Hall and Roberts Hall, will undergo interior refurbishing while preserving their exterior historical appearance. The renovations to Beckham Hall will allow for more efficient use of space including updated classrooms with state-of-the-art technology. Franklin Hall, which contains our cafeteria, will be extensively renovated and expanded to include a student center and an alumni conference center overlooking the center of campus. These improvements will provide our students and conference participants with even more opportunities for exceptional on-campus experiences. If you visit us during the next 18-24 months (and we hope you will!), please excuse the construction sites. We promise the end results will be well worth the inconveniences.

Classes in Ferrum's first adult degree completion program began in the 2004-05 academic year at the Roanoke Higher Education Center. Two bachelor degree programs are currently offered: Business Administration with an emphasis in Management, and Criminal Justice. Ferrum has also established the Virginia Center for Criminal Justice Studies which provides unique educational programs, professional development opportunities, and specialized agency assistance for the

criminal justice community. For details about these and other programs, please visit our newly redesigned Web site <www.ferrum.edu> which now includes an interactive calendar.

Please continue to keep Ferrum College faculty, staff, students and board members in your prayers. We are thankful for the many ways that the United Methodist Church continues to support Ferrum and its programs. We are particularly blessed by the efforts of United Methodist Women who give of their time, talents and finances to help Ferrum provide for the needs of our students. You are all important to us in so many incalculable ways. God bless you.

Jennifer L. Braaten, *President*

RANDOLPH-MACON ACADEMY

Randolph-Macon Academy (R-MA) has continued to prosper over the past year. The academy experienced a 13.5 percent increase in enrollment and also continued its campaign of academic excellence. We are very pleased to also report an 8 percent increase in United Methodist children attending the academy. Our goal is to become the prep school of choice for Virginia Annual Conference families seeking private education. We believe the R-MA focus on character and values education and leadership opportunities is consistent with the expectations of many United Methodist families.

R-MA started a Middle School nine years ago. I will highlight this component of the academy for the remainder of this report. The R-MA Middle School was envisioned as a preparatory school for the Upper School, which is affiliated with the United States Air Force. The goal was to create a separate campus for grades 6, 7, and 8 and implement a civilian-style, but structured curriculum. Children were to board at all grades and the school would be open to local area day students as well.

In just nine years, the R-MA Middle School has become a reality. It occupies a stand-alone campus, with state-of-the-art dorms, cafeteria, classrooms, library, and athletic and administrative facilities. The school is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Virginia Association of Independent Schools. It has also successfully undergone an affiliation visit by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church.

The R-MA Middle School is built upon three foundational principles: (1) excellence, (2) character and (3) nurturing. Excellence exudes from every classroom activity and program of the school and is an integral part of daily life. Character education is the bedrock of the school's educational approach. The school practices and lives by four key virtues, which positively influence behavior and decorum of the school. Finally, the school has quickly developed a reputation as a nurturing place where teachers and administration focus on one goal — helping your students learn and mature. There is no doubt that students come first at the R-MA Middle School.

In summary, R-MA is having an excellent year and the school continues to grow in terms of quality academic and extracurricular programs. The R-MA Middle School has become a true beacon of excellence. I hope that you will visit our campus soon and experience the goodness and excitement of both our Middle and Upper Schools. Thank you for your financial commitment to the academy — it means a great deal to us! Thank you also for your support and for your prayers.

Maj. Gen. Henry M. Hobgood, *President*

RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE

The 2004-05 academic year was a celebratory one for Randolph-Macon College (R-MC), which embarked on its 175th anniversary, marking it the oldest Methodist-related college in continuous operation in the United States. Festivities continued throughout the year, including a community birthday party held in conjunction with the town of Ashland in September 2004, as well as the first-of-its-kind Super Board Weekend in early spring 2005. All five of the college's leadership boards were invited back to campus for this special weekend to celebrate, rejoice in all the college's accomplishments during the last 175 years and share their visions for Randolph-Macon's future.

R-MC also brought the past to the present during a special celebratory worship service in February 2005 at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church on the Randolph-Macon campus. Approximately 50 of the college's alumni who pursued careers in the ministry returned to campus to participate in this unique event, which also involved four R-MC students who received A. Purnell Bailey scholarships for commitment to the ministry and the newly appointed leader of the Virginia Conference, Bishop Charlene Kammerer.

The 175th anniversary commemorated an exciting new beginning for the recently renovated Thomas Branch building, which includes the Birdsong Peaks of Excellence Center and the Brock Residence Hall. Today the newly renovated facility, originally constructed in 1914, houses 60 students and serves as a living-learning center and hub for R-MC's "Peaks of Excellence" program, to include our international studies program, internships, career development and the Higgins Academic Center.

The curriculum also was revised to include the Freshman Year Experience (FYE), a program comprised of yearlong courses taught by two full-time professors specializing in different disciplines. Designed to integrate different branches of learning, the FYE program immediately immerses freshmen in college life and also focuses on refining students' writing and speaking skills.

On other fronts, Randolph-Macon students continue to reach out into the community with their philanthropic efforts. In December, more than 20 R-MC education students and professors donated dozens of children's books to the Hanover Youth Service Council for a youth literacy project in the area. Also, for the last three years, Randolph-Macon students have raised more than \$88,000 dollars for local hospitals that specialize in treating children. The 2004 Randolph-Macon College Dance Marathon alone raised more than \$32,000 for the Children's Miracle Network.

Dr. Roger Martin, *President*

RANDOLPH-MACON WOMAN'S COLLEGE

Gordon Steffey joined the religion faculty of Randolph-Macon Woman's College (R-MWC) in September 2004. He was an undergraduate at St. Olaf College in Minnesota; he has a divinity degree from Yale and a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.

Professor Steffey is finding that many students express curiosity about the basic building blocks of the Christian faith. They are interested not so much in practical matters of how faith is applied as they are in the facts of theology, the essential beliefs. As he puts it, "They find in 'theory' surprising resources for responsible praxis (a God, a world, a self, or another that they never knew)."

R-MWC students are interested in the intersection between religion and public life. What are the conditions which make this intersection a positive and helpful

one? What are some of the ways religion can be applied to social issues? What does religion have to tell us about capital punishment, for instance, or war, or sexuality?

Interfaith dialogues appeal greatly to R-MWC students, as does the study of the sacred texts of the great religions. In general, students are alive to the possibility that, where religion has often been a cause of conflict, religious studies may actually help to resolve conflict. Related to this is the issue of global Christianity — the fact that the faith is growing faster in parts of Africa and Asia than anywhere else in the world, and the implications of that fact.

What does Professor Steffey see as the biggest challenge to students' growth in the study of religion? Oddly enough, it is a kind of tolerance, the notion that your beliefs are different from mine and that's fine, no more to be said, no attention to be paid. If tolerance is understood as completely uncritical acceptance, then there is little opportunity to develop the analytical tools needed to discriminate among ideas and profit from them.

A richly diverse environment, R-MWC provides many opportunities for interfaith dialogue and critical analysis of others' beliefs. One such opportunity took place in February, when members of UMMAH, a student group dedicated to communication between Muslims and non-Muslims, offered its second program to the community. This year's program focused on Media Images of Islam and America, demonstrating the power of the media to distort our perceptions of the tenets of both Islam and Christianity.

Kathleen G. Bowman, *President*

SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY

Shenandoah University (SU) continues to remain actively engaged in its service-oriented mission to “prepare individuals to be critical, reflective thinkers; lifelong learners; and ethical, compassionate citizens who are committed to making responsible contributions within a community, a nation and the world.” As an institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church, service is an important part of Shenandoah University's culture, and we're proud of individuals like Dr. Juliana Fehr, director of SU's nurse/midwifery program, who served on Governor Mark Warner's task force to study women's access to rural healthcare; Associate Director of Continuing Education Martha Erbach, who has helped train more than 200 parish nurses to serve the healthcare needs of their congregations; and Dr. Miles Davis, assistant professor of management at the Harry F. Byrd Jr. School of Business at Shenandoah University, whose commitment to education earned him the 2004 Exemplary Teacher of the Year Award.

At Shenandoah, countless students, faculty, staff and alumni participate in service projects, such as constructing a second Habitat for Humanity house, gleaning fruit and vegetables for “Harvest of Hope,” and participating in a spring break mission trip to Eleuthera, Bahamas — hard hit by four recent hurricanes. At Shenandoah, student organizations are encouraged to be involved in some form of community service. For example, students involved in Shenandoah's Citizen Scholar Program received the same training offered by the United Way's “Executives-on-Loan” programs. These students were given an overview of the key social and economic needs of the Winchester/Frederick County community and the ways community service agencies are working to respond to those needs. The students then volunteer their time each semester to work in one of these social service agencies.

Through Shenandoah's top-rated programs in the allied health professions, professionally trained and licensed pharmacists, physical therapists, occupational

therapists, and physician assistants are able to serve in neighborhoods and communities across America and throughout the world. This spring, to accent the importance of global citizenship, Shenandoah University underwrote the cost of sending 50 members of the university community to explore citizenship in the countries of Costa Rica, India, Mali, Netherlands and Taiwan. These global scholars spent time examining their own understanding of citizenship, exploring citizenship as it is experienced by citizens in one of the destination countries, and facilitating a university-wide dialogue after their return as part of the university's Creative Scholarship Day.

Religious life on campus continues to grow with three active campus fellowships, Friday chapel services, and Thursday night Bible studies. This fall, Gary Robbins, the new chaplain at Shenandoah, used the theme "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread" to orchestrate a number of hunger awareness activities, including fall gleaning, participation in the Oxfam "Fast for Life," and a visit on campus by Ray Buchanan, president of Stop Hunger Now. Other special events included the Service of Lessons and Carols, the Annual Ecumenical Day Celebration, and the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Service of Remembrance, featuring the Rev. Clarence Brown, superintendent of the Charlottesville District of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Shenandoah University continues to take pride in our relationship with the United Methodist Church and the Virginia Annual Conference. Please come and visit our campus and see "firsthand" how the Spirit of God is at work in our goals for education.

Dr. James A. Davis, *President*

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE

Virginia Wesleyan College is moving forward in a big way. This year the college crafted a vision for the future — a vision that includes:

- **Becoming a Phi Beta Kappa caliber institution by the end of the decade** when Virginia Wesleyan celebrates its 50th anniversary. This distinction would place the college soundly within the ranks of the finest liberal arts colleges in the nation and recognize the institution's academic quality and the scholarship of its faculty and students.
- **Increasing the college's endowment** to provide scholarships to recruit outstanding students and exceptional faculty members and strengthen teaching and learning programs. In the last 12 years the college's endowment has grown from \$7.5 million to \$40 million and is expected to increase to \$70 within the next four years.
- **Creating the region's first "green" science education building**, which would reinforce the principles taught in the college's earth and environmental sciences curricula, using energy-efficient technologies and maximizing the use of recycled and/or environmentally sustainable materials. This facility will have dedicated research areas, laboratories, an observatory dome, and natural history areas.
- **Enhancing the Environmental Science Program** Virginia Wesleyan's location near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay provides an ideal setting for education and research activities centered on the bay, its watershed, and its resources.
- **Increasing the volumes and square footage of the Hofheimer Library** to transform the library into a hub for study. The book collection will be enriched by 50,000 volumes and the floor space by 1,700 square feet; well-lit study areas accommodating individual learning styles will be created; and an additional 24-

hour computer lab, possibly in a café setting, will also serve as an informal gathering spot for the campus community.

- **Internationalizing the campus** by providing a wealth of opportunities for students to study abroad; nominating students for Fulbright, Rhoades and Rotary scholarships; and attracting foreign students to our campus.
- **Expanding and enhancing athletic facilities and programs** to make the institution more attractive to prospective student athletes and offer students more options for developing their athletic abilities. A robust athletic program is an integral part of a well-rounded liberal arts education.

In a little more than 40 years, Virginia Wesleyan College has earned a reputation as a respected institution of higher education, distinguished by its impressive academic quality and student-centered approach to teaching. Distinctive among Virginia's private liberal arts institutions, Virginia Wesleyan meshes a solid academic grounding in the liberal arts with practical, real-world experiences that prepare students for challenging careers — many go on to attend the country's top graduate, law, business and medical schools. With a United Methodist heritage and an unwavering commitment to intellectual and religious freedom, the college is a gateway to successful careers and fulfilled lives.

The vision is before us. We ask for your prayers and support as we move forward.

William T. Greer Jr., *President*

CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORTS

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY & HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE

In faithful response to God's love for all creation, the Wesley Foundation at Farmville, Va., exists in order to be an expression of this love, primarily to and with the students. We seek to enable students to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and to live out that commitment in a life of love and service. In addition, we seek to be in ministry to and with the faculty and staff, larger college community, and local United Methodist churches.

We continue to develop our Student Leadership Council. This student council, with the input of the director, develops, plans and implements many of the ministries that take place through the Wesley Foundation. As part of that process we continue to ask God to reveal to us possibilities for new ministry areas. As always, missions have been a big part of our ministry this year. We planned several local mission events and one mission trip.

Our local mission weekends have included workdays with the local Habitat for Humanity, outreach ministry to the local hospital and even work here in our own facility. These local mission weekends have made it possible for students not interested in weeklong trip to experience a mission event. We also did a Spring Break Mission Trip from March 13-19, 2005. We were in mission at Red Bird Mission Work Camp in Beverly, Ky., which is a part of the Red Bird Missionary Conference. These local mission weekend events and our trip to Red Bird were a time of service and personal spiritual growth for all who participated.

The heart and soul of our full-time program of campus ministry continues to be our weekly Tuesday Fellowship Dinner and Program. Farmville District churches, groups and individuals provide meals that are followed by meaningful programs on a variety of topics given by different speakers. These speakers include local pastors, college professors and administrators, and students. It is a time of community building and fellowship that serves as the base of our ministry. We continue to offer a Sunday evening Alpha Course. The Alpha Course is a 10-week practical

introduction to the Christian faith. Our worship team continues to be a vital and growing ministry. This worship team includes a praise band, drama troupe and students willing and able to share the Good News from the pulpit. We have led several worship services throughout our district and expect this ministry to continue to grow. We also offer a student-led Bible study on Thursday nights. Something new for this year is a Round Table Discussion Group meeting on the campus of Hampden-Sydney. We are making an intentional effort to increase our presence on the Hampden-Sydney campus and this group is the beginning of the presence. The doors of the building are left open most of the time for study, prayer, relaxation, movies and TV, pool and pingpong, and many fellowship opportunities. Many groups use the Wesley Foundation Student Center. These groups include the Farmville District youth program, the Farmville United Methodist Church Senior High Youth, other community and church organizations, the Farmville District Pastors, and the District Committee on Ordained Ministry. We also have on our property Farmville Church's children's playground.

As this academic year comes to a close and I reflect, I thank God for the privilege to serve in this particular setting of campus ministry. It is a joy and blessing and I look forward to serving here for years to come. The Wesley Foundation family gives special thanks to the churches, groups and individuals who faithfully support us through their continual prayers, presence, gifts and service. It is our hope and prayer that the Wesley Foundation is a place "where hearts are warmed."

Richard Meiser, *Director*

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

Study, fellowship, worship, leadership development, and service happen in so many ways at the Wesley Foundation, as we seek to be the Body of Christ at The College of William and Mary (W&M). In addition to our weekly gatherings for interesting and provocative programs, students participate in small groups regularly. In our Religion Courses discussion group students discuss how religion courses are impacting their faith. Students also have participated in Bible study groups, Come to the Waters (for students seeking to be baptized or to renew their vows), Companions in Christ, and book discussions. Some 13 W&M students participated in the annual United Nations Seminar organized by the Wesley Foundation at the University of Virginia, and 20 attended a lively retreat which focused on the controversial film, "Saved!"

Fellowship activities took the form of intramural sports, parties, spontaneous events, and our annual alcohol-free activities that offer an alternative to the drinking bashes that mark the last day of classes on campus.

Opportunities for worship began and ended our academic year, were a part of our Sunday programs, and students gathered weekly at 8 a.m. for prayers at the University Center.

Our Young Adult Council was transformed this year in its leadership through a covenant that guided our deliberations and actions, and held us to a higher accountability as disciples of Christ. A unique opportunity was afforded us when we welcomed Meena Rai, a Nepalese theological student at Cliff College in England, for a month-long ministry placement.

Special service opportunities included our seventh annual Potato Drop with the Society of St. Andrew, Jail Dog Visitation (dogs are borrowed from the local animal shelter and taken to the Peninsula Regional Jail as students interact with pets and inmates), a two-day mission endeavor in Poquoson where we continued cleanup from Hurricane Isabel, our Spring Break mission with ReCreation Experiences in North Carolina, and a two-week mission trip to Pyatigorsk, Russia.

The most dramatic and exciting part of this year has been the way our Board of Directors has embarked on an ambitious five-year long-range plan to make this campus ministry a model to emulate. Our goals include making the first floor and basement of our building ADA compliant, strengthening what we do locally in mission, broadening our attention to global mission and ministry, and bringing significant, nationally known speakers (e.g., Jim Wallis, Peter Storey, Desmond Tutu, President Jimmy Carter) to campus to address peace, reconciliation and faith.

Your support for campus ministry and prayers make it possible for us to be the Body of Christ at William and Mary. Thank you for caring for those engaged in the life of mind so they can also be engaged with the life of discipleship.

David Hindman, *Campus Minister*

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA (UVA)

“Living in a rich, restless relationship with the university, the Wesley Foundation at UVA, as an expression of Christ’s church, seeks the uniting of mind and spirit and the transformation of communities and lives.” This is the guiding mission of our work with the university community in Charlottesville. We are happy to be celebrating over 80 years in ministry here.

A number of exciting things have happened in our campus ministry this year. Project Transformation, our summer internship program that brings college students to Charlottesville to lead eight-week summer camp programs with at-risk children, grew in its second year to include 10 interns and a seminarian/chaplain. Led by Assistant Director Deborah Lewis, this ministry continues to offer college students the chance to explore ministry as a vocation, churches the opportunity to be in outreach with their community, and children an enrichment program led by caring students and volunteers. This summer we are planning to expand this unique program to 12 interns serving even more children at site churches in Charlottesville and Waynesboro.

Highlights of the student ministry through the last year have included: A United Nations Seminar in New York City in which 21 students from UVA, William and Mary, and Mary Washington studied “Peace and Global Security.” Some 13 people participated in a spring break mission trip to the Eastern Shore of Virginia where they worked at Camp Occohannock and with the migrant ministry program. Dr. Don Saliers, of Candler School of Theology, came to lead two days of events as the fourth annual Jim McDonald Lecturer. Students participated in the new PACEM ministry for homeless men in Charlottesville. In February, we led a worship service at the Fluvanna Women’s Correctional Center. All of this was in addition to the regular Bible studies, Thursday night dinners, informal worship, daily prayer, and Coffee and Theology programs.

Students continue to find a welcome home at the Wesley Foundation at UVA. It is a place to be and a place to become.

Alex Joyner, *Director*

THE TIDEWATER WESLEY FOUNDATION

The Tidewater Wesley Foundation has had an excellent year in service and ministry to the students of Old Dominion University (ODU), the Tidewater Community College system and Eastern Virginia Medical School. This has been an exciting year for us. Our outreach to the Virginia Beach and Chesapeake campuses of Tidewater Community College is growing and improving, and the work that Debra Cunningham is doing at the Portsmouth Campus continues to minister effectively to students with the message and love of Christ. At Old Dominion

University our resident intern, Michael Morris, is opening up even more new possibilities for ministry there as well.

At ODU, students are participating in a number of activities. The Wesley House sponsors the ODU Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter. Students this year have helped with local missions, led a weekly worship service on campus, and have participated in a number of rather unique opportunities. This spring break saw an unusual fund-raiser as the first Awakeapalooza was held. Students took pledges for each hour that they could stay awake and had lots of fellowship, ministry, and fun over the 48-plus hours of Awakeapalooza, which raised over \$1,500. The champion “stay-awaker” logged in 61 hours before he finally fell asleep.

At ODU, we have had tremendous attendance at our weekly programs which include the Tuesday Table Talk program, a Women’s Bible Study, and the Men’s Bible Study. This year new programs were also begun at the Wesley House. Disciple Bible Study I has seven students enrolled in it, and Narcotics Anonymous, A Scouting Venture Crew, a Young Children’s and Parents Music Time and a Korean worship service are also a part of this year’s outreach and mission. We continue to offer on campus worship and Communion each Sunday evening, and Wesley students and the campus minister are part of the leadership for ODU’s annual Baccalaureate Service and the University Chaplain’s Association. We also continue to offer a weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. We also now have five ministerial candidates active in our program, each one of which are at differing stages of the candidacy process.

One part of this year’s journey has been assimilating many of the tasks and ministries that the Presbyterian student group offered on campus. The Presbyterian ministry closed its doors in December, and many of their students have become a vital part of our ministry. In recognition of this participation and our history together with the Presbyterians, the student leadership decided to remain known as the ODU Wesley-Westminster Student Association.

At Tidewater Community College (TCC), we continue to offer credit academic classes as part of our ministry in higher education. Offering both lecture and online credit religion classes in Religions of the World, The New Testament, The Life and Letters of Paul and the History of Christianity we have had over 180 students enrolled in this aspect of our ministry this year. We have also offered various ongoing programs and counseling at TCC. In conjunction with the campus minister, our Virginia Beach/Chesapeake TCC intern, Rita Griswold, continues to do an excellent job of growing our presence and the effectiveness of our Virginia Beach and Chesapeake campus programs.

The students of the Tidewater Wesley Foundation have taken a true leadership role in our ministry and are the driving force for the excellence and continued growth in everything that we are doing. While numbers are not the most important measure of a program’s effectiveness, they are important, and our numbers in both terms of students leading and those participating have grown substantially over the course of this year.

The Tidewater Wesley Foundation is a presence and a force for Christ on our campuses as we share the transforming grace and love of Jesus Christ through our mission, our ministries, our presence and our people. As we look to the future, the future of this ministry holds the promise of sharing and proclaiming Christ’s presence in the lives of the people and future of the campuses we serve for a long time to come.

David Persons, *Campus Minister*

THE WESLEY FOUNDATION AT VIRGINIA TECH

There was much that happened during the past conference year that was exciting, and different, and unique. There was also much that was more routine for, after all, there is a rhythm in academic life. School begins in the fall, and you have retreats, football games, a loft sale, worship services, Bible studies, and the like. Then there is Thanksgiving break, followed quickly by Christmas services, parties, and a long winter break. Along with the onset of a new year, there is planning for spring break, service projects, buying back lofts, and honoring the graduates.

But there was much about last year that was, in fact, unique and very special. One of the primary foci of our campus ministry program each year is the outreach ministry of the Wesley Singers. And last year it was the celebration of the 30th anniversary of this non-auditioning choral group. We brought together a select choir of alumni to spend a weekend recording a CD of singers' highlights for the 30th anniversary celebration in the spring. These CDs were available for anyone who made a donation to Wesley.

We also had a gala Alumni Dinner celebration as a part of the spring Wesley Weekend, in conjunction with Blacksburg United Methodist Church. Nearly 300 people were in Blacksburg for the dinner, and more than 500 were in attendance for the "coffeehouse" at the church on Saturday night. The next morning the Singers performed at both worship services, and an alumni choir of 125 sang at the late service. At the end, both choirs joined together in a stirring finale, "At the Name of Jesus." Ultimately, giving to a cause is not necessarily a gauge of its importance, but we used "\$30 K for the 30th A" as a slogan and as a goal, and our total giving for the weekend to Wesley was over \$32,000!

This weekend celebration of the role of music and outreach in our campus ministry provided an important testimony to how vital this is. During the weekend, and for months afterward, individual Hokie alums talked about how important the Wesley Foundation in general and the Wesley Singers in particular were to their own spiritual journey. We thank God for the opportunity to serve in this vital way, and thank God for blessing us with the success of this ministry.

Glenn Tyndall, *Campus Minister*

WESLEY-WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION AT NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY

Wesley-Westminster Foundation is a full-time ministry at Norfolk State University (NSU) that serves as a spiritual and intellectual building block for students. It seeks to provide spiritual guidance to the students, administration, faculty, and staff of the university. Our goal focuses on helping students achieve with excellence, while developing a wider perspective and understanding of God.

The Wesley-Westminster House, located at 2412 Corprew Avenue, is currently undergoing a planning and redevelopment renovation which when completed will greatly enhance our ministry. Wesley is a place where students can be challenged by the Christian faith and develop relationships with others in an atmosphere marked by fellowship and Christian discipleship. Our activities include; Bible study, discussing theological issues; engaging in community-related missions programs, as well as creating an atmosphere for regular worship services. The major financial underwriters for the ministry are the United Methodist and Presbyterian churches. The ministry however, serves not only United Methodist or Presbyterian students on campus, but students from various denominations. We believe the world is our parish, and our calling is to reach lost souls and to fellowship with other believers.

The university is surrounded by various denominations and churches that have been involved with NSU for years. Wesley emphasis on engaging the community outside the university involves participating in activities of an ecumenical nature. Norfolk State is unique in this aspect in that we provide leadership and direction for the other ministries on campus that are directly related to other denominations. They include, but are not limited to, the Norfolk State Gospel Choir, Campus Christian Athletes, the Baptist Bible Study Group, and the United Campus Christian Ministries.

Campus ministry requires commitment from Christians and others who are interested in the development and growth of young people. We are available to students for regular times of support, counseling and spiritual direction. This commitment is recognized and embraced by the university administration, of which, we also serve in a chaplaincy capacity. In addition, we provide representation to many functions on behalf of the university president, as a spiritual ambassador for the Norfolk State family.

The church must continue its investment in the minds and lives of students, and we, as ministers being agents of change, understand that discipleship among students, serves to promote kingdom building in this world order.

Larry Smith, *Director & Campus Minister*

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION

The role and mission of campus ministry is to be a devout presence for our young adult constituency in the context of a mentoring community. The idea of mentoring in this college community is not just to provide pastoral care but also to develop our students into brilliant leaders of today's and tomorrow's church. More and more, we want to equip our young people with the proper apparatus to think biblically, to decisively filter and analyze every medium that confronts their humanity. Again, we at the Wesley Foundation at James Madison University are very passionate about spiritual growth, personal growth and leadership. We do this with the hope of creating more dedicated and skilled persons who will know how to interpret the church and the world around them. This year our student leaders rose to the occasion by creating new initiatives for 2004-2005. The programs are read as follow:

- "In His Steps" (Liturgical Dancers)
- "WOW" Women of Wesley (meet every Monday night at 9:00 p.m.)
- "Soul Blurbs" (Wesley's Newsletter)
- Men Under Construction (Discussion group for men)
- Sister 2 Sister program (mentoring program for young girls grades 2-5)
- The God of Wonder Program (program for Hispanic children of Harrisonburg community)
- Seminary Seminar (Fall & Spring we take students who are experiencing calls to ministry to one of our neighboring seminaries)

Also this summer, the staff and a handful of faithful students worked diligently to make the Wesley Foundation a more inviting space whereby our students may be challenged along their faith journey. The Wesley House also provides us with great opportunities to learn, worship and fellowship. These subsequent programs are revealed as such:

- Are you really ready for marriage? (Five-week premarital classes)
- Sunday School for College Students at Asbury United Methodist Church
- Wednesday afternoon Bible Study at the Wesley Foundation
- Thursday night fellowship dinners
- Movie nights and discussion

- Good Morning But Wake Up devotions
- Spiritual growth retreats, leadership retreats (fall & spring)

Lastly, our students are involved in meaningful mission work whereby they are confronted theologically and culturally. It is a testament to the very fact that God continues to call young people to the mission field. However, all of these wonderful opportunities for our students would not be possible if it were not for the generous support of the local churches of both the Harrisonburg and Staunton districts.

Derrick Parson, *Director*

CAMPUS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY (CCC) AT MARY WASHINGTON COLLEGE

The ecumenical ministry of the CCC, supported by the United Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Episcopal judicatories, as well as, local congregations from these denominations, has continued to grow and strengthen its spiritual presence both on the college campus and in the surrounding community. Our regular programming includes:

- Thursday evening supper and table talk from 5-7 p.m. Each Thursday, one of our supporting churches provides a meal for our students followed by a program of learning and conversation. Topics this year have included: David and Liminality, A Study of growing up in your 20s, Christian Unity, Singleness, Sexuality, Civic Participation and Social Activism, Homelessness.
- Wednesday night is our weekly worship/Communion service in which we follow the lectionary and pray the Psalms. Singing, sharing, and the Lord's Supper are a regular part of this Wednesday evening service.
- Every Monday evening, our student leadership team, made up of 11 students, meets to plan CCC activities, pray about concerns, and discuss vision for the future.
- Small Bible study and prayer groups meet weekly throughout campus each led by one of our ministry team members.
- Social activities have included weekend hikes, dinner and a movie nights, game nights, bowling, pizza, etc.
- Service projects throughout the year have included working with The Pilgrimage in Washington, D.C., Hike for Hope in Fredericksburg, blankets and gloves collection for the homeless, volunteering at local nursing homes and at the homeless shelter, and other local projects.
- Our winter mission trip was taken in December 2004 to Honduras. We volunteered at "Our Little Roses," a home for abused and abandoned girls. We spent time doing crafts with the girls, painting a dorm, weeding and gardening, building shelves and installing door knobs.
- We continue to be available to students for regular times of support, counseling and spiritual direction.
- The CCC board is continuing to work on a long-range plan for the ministry and the facilities. We are continuing to build upon the long and effective history of the CCC.

Robert Azzarito, *Campus Minister*

PACE CENTER (WESLEY FOUNDATION): UNITED METHODIST CAMPUS MINISTRY AT VCU

The Pace Student Center is based out of the historic Pace Memorial United Methodist Church, Richmond. It is an official Wesley Foundation, campus ministry of the Virginia Annual Conference at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU).

Over the course of the past year, the Board of Directors and students have sought to find the direction of the ministry. Our mission is the following. . . “A campus ministry that engages, empowers, and equips a witnessing community of student-followers of Jesus Christ.” “Our vision is to be a United Methodist campus ministry that connects the VCU community in intellectual excellence, spiritual growth, and leadership-in-service to the world.”

We meet on Sunday evening at 5 for weekly worship during the academic year. Our worship includes Holy Communion, various hymns and praise songs, and reflections and discussions based on the lectionary.

The VCU Black Awakening Choir rehearses every Thursday evening during the semester. They perform at a variety of churches, worship services, and choral competitions.

In the fall, our ministry partnered with Boulevard United Methodist Church on a Habitat For Humanity during the Building Blitz in Richmond.

We co-sponsored a lecture with the VCU Society of Religious Studies. Dr. Cliff Edwards, religion professor, lectured on Vincent Van Gogh and Emily Dickenson’s theology and art titled: Vincent’s Window and Emily’s Door.” Seventy students and faculty members were present.

Dr. Edwards presented a lecture on Santa Claus following the final day of class in the fall semester using Norman Rockwell’s Christmas pictures from *The Saturday Evening Post*.

In the spring semester, the United Methodist and Baptist Campus Ministries joined forces to share Ash Wednesday service with over 30 students in attendance.

During spring break, we partnered with Highland Support Project (HSP) sending 21 students to Guatemala. The team worked with the indigenous people of the Guatemalan highlands. Students built brick ovens, studied culture, economics, and faith.

In the fall 2005 semester we will be partnering with area churches to show hospitality to incoming students. We continue to vision how God wants to use the church at VCU.

A.J. Gunther, *Campus Minister*

COMMUNITY COLLEGE MINISTRIES IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

Community College Ministries (CCM) is your campus ministry with 10 community colleges in southwestern Virginia where 50,000 students enroll in higher education and occupational programs every year! Participating colleges are Virginia Western Community College in Roanoke, Dabney Lancaster Community College in Clifton Forge, Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, Danville Community College in Danville, New River Community College in Dublin, Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville, Wytheville Community College in Wytheville, Virginia Highlands Community College in Abingdon, Southwest Virginia Community College in Richlands, and Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap. Partner churches are the Presbytery of the Peaks of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, and the Catholic Diocese of Richmond with regional support from the new Westminster Foundation of the PCUSA.

There are two principal programs, our Servant Leader Teams and Alliance for Excellence. Alliance for Excellence is a partnership of congregations and colleges designed to enhance educational opportunities for African American students. With support from the Westminster Foundation and the United Methodist Self-Development Fund, Alliance for Excellence reaches over 1,500 African American youth and

students every year through an array of tutoring services, fellowship, motivational seminars, academic awards, and scholarships. Servant Leader Teams are groups of students, faculty, and local church leaders combining their talents and resources in local mission! In addition, Community College Ministries sponsors emergency assistance to students in need and a variety of global mission efforts through Peacework.

On April 23, 2003, we celebrated our 20th anniversary with a special keynote by the Honorable Belle Wheelan, Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia and former president at Central Virginia Community College. Our 2002 annual meeting featured Glenn DuBois, chancellor of the Virginia Community Colleges System, who spoke on reaching high-risk youth and students through creative educational and church partnerships.

CCM also provides staff for the Virginia Campus Ministry Forum. The director is the Rev. Stephen Darr, 209 Otey St., Blacksburg, VA 24060, phone (540) 953-3904 and e-mail <sdarr@compuserve.com>. Our program coordinators are Gloria Lindsay at Virginia Western Community College, Sandy Saunders at Danville Community College, Jean Wilson at Patrick Henry Community College, and Muriel Mickles at Central Virginia Community College. Becky McKimmy is our fantastic program assistant in Blacksburg. Our Web site is <www.ccmva.org> where you can find links to our supporting churches, participating colleges, financial aid resources for students, opportunities for volunteering, donations, and descriptions of these programs. We welcome your participation in our unique ministry with colleges and congregations!

Stephen Darr, *Director*

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES AT CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY (CNU)

United Campus Ministries hired Melanie C. Reuter, a United Methodist, as campus minister in August 2004.

Worship services were held during Orientation Week and Family Weekend, as well as on Sept. 11, Thanksgiving, and Ash Wednesday. Two memorial services were held during spring semester. A Bible study, "A Theology of Movement," took place during Advent.

A new United Methodist Student Movement formed in the fall and has nine active members. These students are engaged in feeding the homeless through a program sponsored by St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Newport News.

United Campus Ministries also assists the Baptist Student Union, Lutheran Student Movement, Catholic Campus Ministries, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Young Life, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Hillel, and served as advisors to the CNU Work-Mission Trip to Honduras. A Student Leadership Council formed to assist student leaders of the various religious groups on campus in coming together for special projects.

Special programs offered by United Campus Ministries included a Faith & Politics Forum, a Knit Out and discussion of the spirituality of knitting, a Bible study for faculty and staff women, a three-part film series and forum on the Ten Commandments, and a cross-country invitational in memory of two CNU students.

Melanie C. Reuter, *Campus Minister*

UNITED COLLEGE MINISTRIES IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA (UCMNV)

We are grateful for the continued, and increasing, support of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. You answer our prayers and move us

forward in this our 39th year of ministry. Thanks to you and our ecumenical partners, students' lives are being changed.

Our vision includes an Expanded Campus Presence. Now we focus on Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), in Alexandria, Annandale and respond to specific requests from Woodbridge, and on George Mason University (GMU) Fairfax. Our vision is to expand to all NVCC campuses: NVCC Loudon, Manassas and the new Medical Education Campus in Springfield. This necessitates increasing our operating budget five-fold in order to place a minister on each campus.

Draw the Circle Wide has been our theme. While the loudest voices representing Christian faith tend to be exclusionary, UCMNV represents a more inclusive understanding of the gospel that aims to "witness to the unity of the human family." We recently teamed with the Persian Club (all Moslem) to raise money for the tsunami relief effort. They, in turn, featured our literature on their table and promoted our Bible study! We held Ash Wednesday services at the NVCC Annandale and GMU campuses and sponsored a tsunami relief dance with other campus organizations at NVCC Alexandria, drawing our circle of community support ever wider.

Our Christian Discussion Group is student-initiated, chaplain-supported. We began with "What in the world am I here for? /The Purpose Driven Life," providing books, videos and guide. Next, we studied *Journey Through the Psalms* by Wesley Seminary Hebrew Bible scholar, Dr. Denise Hopkins. The Listening Post provides active listening. We host Sunday evening Food, Fun and Friendship. Special guests have included GMU professors/poets Eric Pankey and Jennifer Actkinson who spoke about their faith journeys, their marriage and gave a poetry reading. GMU president Dr. Alan Merten came and spoke about how his faith informs his life and work. Civil rights activist Dr. Elbert Ransom Jr. will also be a special guest. This gathering provides real community (as opposed to virtual "community") and concludes with evening prayers. We promote Hunger Awareness through our UCMNV Hunger Concert and Bread for the World advocacy. We teach Conflict Resolution and Marriage Preparation. UCMNV also partners with local church members to host International Students for holiday meals (more than 300 have participated!). At our Social Justice celebration the Emmett W. Coker Jr. Social Justice Award and Scholarship are presented.

Development efforts include the UCMNV Giving Society and "Points of Entry" events structured to introduce new friends and reacquaint existing friends to the mission and status of UCMNV. Through them we have seen steady ministry development, in volunteers as well as finances. UCMNV is committed to reaching out in partnership to area churches. To that end, we are collaborating with the Alexandria /Arlington bi-districts and hope to offer a campus ministry training event October 1. Mark your calendars!

Denise Giacomozzi May, *Minister Director*

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY AT VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

We are thankful for another year of service. Please allow me to highlight a few events in order that you may get a sense of what God is doing at this place.

Welcome of Students: Our Back-2-School event served more than 400 persons with board members providing refreshments to supplement what the university provides.

Women's Group: Our volunteer intern (the Rev. Kimberly Jeffreys) has nurtured and challenged more than 75 female African American students through a thorough study of women's issues and how to effectively challenge the status quo in the marketplace and the church. I am indebted to the Petersburg District's United Methodist Women for their support and encouragement!

International Outreach: We have intentionally nurtured an ongoing relationship with students from the African continent as they adjust to life in the United States. I meet with them on a biweekly basis and provide a forum for discussions and reflections. Though small in number (30 total), they are excited about their fellowship and confident in their relationship with each other and our God.

Community Outreach: For the seventh consecutive year, we have shared with Harry E. James Elementary School with their Reading is Basic program. My students really enjoy this opportunity to positively influence a young person. Several have been touched by this setting and have since changed their major to reflect a teaching emphasis!

Worship & Study: We have experienced smaller numbers in worship, but consistent attendance makes this a prime opportunity to disciple this group of freshmen. Our study on the *Song of Songs* was the most widely acclaimed to date and provided a forum to positively view female sexuality from a biblical perspective.

James Daniely, *Campus Minister*

CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

God's commission concerning children resonates throughout Scripture and across time. The Psalmist announces: "Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked (Psalm 82:3-4)." Christ himself calls: "Let the little children come unto me. . . (e.g., Matthew 19:14a)." In 1996, the United Methodist Church's Council of Bishops prompted reform by saying, "The faithfulness of the church is measured by the presence of and response to 'the least of these,' especially to children and to the poor." Hearing the ongoing call of God, the Children's Initiative Committee (CIC) has held to the belief that the church is to be a sign, foretaste, and instrument of God's reign in the world, especially to exist as a tangible means of hope for all God's children.

The fruits of faithfulness to God's ongoing call on behalf of children have been evident for more than eight years now as districts, local churches, partner mission organizations and individuals have worked to follow the vision of God through CIC in reaching out with and on behalf of children living in poverty and in at-risk situations. While we have much to celebrate in this ongoing ministry of Christ, children across the globe continue to suffer from poverty, abuse, violence and neglect. God's persistent call continues to resound. Our work continues.

Over the past year, CIC resourced local churches across the conference with seed grants for new ministries focused on impoverished children and youth and has formed a partnership with the Hispanic Ministries Task Force for a new grant program for Hispanic ministries with impoverished children. Since 1999, 127 projects across all 18 districts have been funded by CIC for more than \$542,000. Through these projects, children have encountered Christ, received hope and been nurtured in love. We celebrate God's work in this seeding process and look forward to a new focus for our grant program for local churches to begin this fall titled "Community of Transforming Grace."

In addition to seeding ministries, we continue to directly impact lives of children through the summer camps for children of incarcerated mothers called "All God's Children Camp." Last year we joined forces with United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) to train camp leaders and mentors for our weeklong camp experiences for children age 7 to 11 at Camp Highroad and Westview. This year our camps will expand to four sites across the conference (Camp Highroad, Middleburg; Camp Alta Mons, Shawsville; Westview on the James, Goochland; and Occohannock on the Bay, Belle Haven). Additionally, former campers who have shown leadership as teen-

agers will return this year to serve as junior mentors. This is to provide an ongoing community of care, mentoring and esteem-building into the teenage years as well as to allow an opportunity for former campers to give back some of what they have received through camp in the past. As another expansion of mentoring, UMFS in conjunction with CIC and Virginia Commonwealth University has received a grant to provide year-round mentoring to children of incarcerated parents in the Richmond and Northern Virginia areas. Our hope is to provide Christian mentoring throughout the year with trained mentors who are resourced by the expertise of UMFS.

In addition, CIC continues to serve as an educational resource to the conference. In March 2005, we sponsored "Safe Sanctuaries" training in the hope of decreasing the probability of child abuse in our local churches and communities. Moreover, we continue to advocate for and with children who are at-risk and vulnerable. In 2004 General Conference and Jurisdictional Conferences, CIC was part of a leadership effort that called the church to pray for at-risk children across the globe and assisted in publishing *The Bishops Initiative on Children & Poverty Prayer Calendar 2004-2005*.

In faithfulness, we continue to hear God's call "to the least of these," and we continue to ask others to join with us in response. Please stop by our display area for more information and visit our link on the conference Web site. You are needed in this work for all God's children!

Regina Anderson-Cloud, *Chairperson*

BISHOP'S TASK FORCE ON A CONFERENCING FACILITY

The Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center board requested that the Virginia United Methodist Conference assess the nature of the conferencing facilities needed to address the future conferencing needs of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. As a result of this request, the following motion was passed at the 2004 annual conference: "It is recommended that a bishop's task force be appointed to study the future requirements of the Virginia Annual Conference for a conferencing facility and to determine if the Assembly Center in Blackstone is the appropriate facility to satisfy those requirements."

In accordance with this mandate, Bishop Pennel named the members of the task force and charged the task force with carrying out the mandate approved at the annual conference. Contained within the mandate are two requirements that the Conferencing Facility Task Force believes needed to be addressed in the order in which the mandate states them. The first is to study the future requirements of the Virginia Annual Conference for a conferencing facility, and the second is to determine if the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone is the appropriate facility to satisfy those requirements. In order to assess the future conference center requirements, it is implied that the task force must assess the future program needs of the conference and the nature of the facilities that will be needed to appropriately provide for the program needs. Thus, through a process of surveying and visioning, the task force has undertaken the assessment of the program needs and the nature of the conferencing facilities needed as our first order of work. We have surveyed the annual conference boards and agencies, the bishop's Cabinet and the Conference Council on Ministries. Further, all clergy, lay leaders and lay members of annual conference will be asked to participate in a survey so that the task force will hear the views of individual congregations as well. The task force has an e-mail address, <ConferencingFacilityTF@vaumc.org>, and welcomes any input. It also has a site on the annual conference Web page, <www.vaumc.org>.

The Conferencing Facility Task Force will have held five meetings in advance of the 2005 annual conference. Through these meetings, we have planned our work to address the scope of the charge to the task force, visited the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone, reviewed materials concerning the Virginia Conference district-owned camps/retreat facilities and the camping/retreat facilities in other United Methodist annual conferences, discussed the nature of activities occurring in the Virginia United Methodist Center and the use of non-United Methodist facilities such as Eagle Eyrie and Roslyn. Further, we have developed and administered a survey to assess the current and future conferencing needs of the Virginia United Methodist Conference and will be administering a survey through the local churches to gain an understanding of the individual church view of conferencing needs.

The task force anticipates using \$3,000 of the \$5,000 budgeted by the 2004 annual conference to carry out its work in 2004-2005, and is requesting \$5,000 be budgeted to cover the work of the task force in 2005-06.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- That the Bishop's Task Force on a Conferencing Facility be authorized to continue its work in 2005-06 and to bring to the 2006 Virginia Annual Conference a report on its work and a set of recommendations consistent with the charter given to the task force by the 2004 Virginia Annual Conference.
- That the Bishop's Task Force on a Conferencing Facility be granted a budget of \$5,000 to carry out its work in 2005-06 and to prepare its report to the 2006 Virginia Annual Conference.

Minnis Ridenour, *Chairperson*

TASK FORCE ON PEACE AND GLOBAL SECURITY

The 2004 annual conference session authorized a two-year task force to consider Peace and Global Security. Bishop Charlene Kammerer appointed the following people to serve on the Task Force on Peace and Global Security: Dr. Lee B. Sheaffer, chair; the Rev. G. Keith Almond, Mrs. Ethel Born, the Rev. J. Jeffrey Butcher, Dr. Shaun A. Casey, the Rev. Rhonda VanDyke Colby, Dr. John D. Copenhaver Jr., the Rev. John A. Fair, Mr. Aldo Gonzalez, the Rev. H. Donald Hawks, the Rev. H. Frank Holley, the Rev. Rodney M. Hunter, Mr. Josh Johnson, the Rev. Marianne E. Kehoe, Dr. George R. Lucas Jr., Mr. Eugene W. Robey, Mr. Tom Robinson, the Rev. L. Glenn Tyndall, the Rev. James C. Ullian, Dr. Heather A. Warren, Mr. Roy Werner, Mr. Charles Williams, Dr. Susan S. Garrett, staff support.

The task force met on March 29, 2005, and discussed the 2004 annual conference action to: 1. Identify and, if need be, develop resources to help Virginia United Methodists understand the fundamental dynamics of terrorism and fashion for themselves a biblically based perspective on peace and global security. 2. Create a public forum or forums for Virginia United Methodists to come together to study and discuss the challenges posed by the rise of global terrorism.

The task force listed the following priorities for its future consideration:

- Equipping local congregations to have ("model") conversations.
- A biblical, theological examination of security
- Generate a list of resources
- Speakers bureau made of members who could speak to local congregations.
- Empowering local congregations for discipleship
- Understand — and then action: "What do I do with this now?"
- Extend to world outside of United Methodist congregations
- Develop an issue of the *Virginia Advocate*

- Use existing structures
- Congruent with the Virginia Conference Vision Statement
- Media presence for the task force
- Training guide for those on international mission teams
- Testimonies from people

The task force plans to meet quarterly until it completes its assignment.

Lee B. Sheaffer, *Chairperson*

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Rationale for Proposed Constitutional Amendments

The United Methodist Church

Voted General Conference April-May 2004

- I. The proposed amendment specifies that a fair and open process shall be utilized for the election of General Conference delegates.
- II. The proposed amendment adds home missionaries to the classifications over which General Conference has authority to define and fix powers and duties.
- III. The phrase, proposed to be deleted, applied to annual conference in existence prior to 1981. It is now obsolete and may be appropriately discontinued.
- IV. The proposed amendment would guarantee that the person responsible for promoting work of the Mission agency of The United Methodist Church is a member of the Annual Conference. Approximately 30% of Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries are laity. Presently, unless elected by their home church or included under the Conference's equalization rule, this person is not a member of the Annual Conference.
- V. The proposed amendment adds home missionaries under episcopal appointment to the membership of the annual conference.
- VI. The proposed constitutional amendment is needed to support the addition of the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries to the list of lay members of the annual conference in ¶602.4, as passed by General Conference in 2000.
- VII. The proposed amendment provides a definition of clergy members of the annual conference.
- VIII. The proposed amendment would make possible adoption of enabling legislation at the same General Conference as the amendment is voted. Such adoption would be contingent upon required ratification by the various annual conferences. Presently, enabling legislation cannot be introduced until at least the General Conference following adoption, and subsequent ratification, of a constitutional amendment.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment - I

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 812 Yes, 72 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division II, Section II, ¶12.2, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division II, Section II, ¶13.2, *Article I*) amend by substitution as follows:

Delete ¶12.2, which reads, "Delegates shall be elected by the annual conferences except that delegates may be elected by other autonomous Methodist churches if and when the General Conference shall approve concordats with such other

autonomous Methodist churches for the mutual election and seating of delegates in each other's highest legislative conferences." In its place, substitute, "Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences. Delegates may be elected by other autonomous Methodist churches if and when the General Conference shall approve concordats with such other autonomous Methodist churches for the mutual election and seating of delegates in each other's legislative conferences."

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶12.2 (¶13.2) would read:

Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences. Delegates may be elected by other autonomous Methodist churches if and when the General Conference shall approve concordats with such other autonomous Methodist churches for the mutual election and seating of delegates in each other's legislative conferences.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment - II

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 876 Yes, 20 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶15.2, *Article IV*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶16.2, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete "and" before "deaconesses" and add "and home missionaries" at end of sentence.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶15.2 (¶16.2) would read:

To define and fix the powers and duties of elders, deacons, supply preachers, local preachers, exhorters, deaconesses, and home missionaries.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment - III

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 873 Yes, 31 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶25.4, *Article V*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶27.4, *Article V*) amend by deletion, as follows:

Delete "and provided further that this provision shall not apply to annual conferences of the former Evangelical United Brethren Church during the first three quadrenniums after union."

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶25.4 (¶27.4) would read:

To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences; provided that there shall be no annual conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the General Conference.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment - IV

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 851 Yes, 60 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶30, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶32, *Article I*) amend by addition as follows:

Add “Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay),” after “district lay leaders” in the first sentence.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment - V

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 864 Yes, 34 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶30, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶32, *Article I*) amend by addition as follows:

Add “and home missionaries” after “the active deaconesses” in the first sentence.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment - VI

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 832 Yes, 51 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶30, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶32, *Article I*) amend by addition as follows:

Add “the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries” after “district lay leaders” in the first sentence.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment - VII

On May 3, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 877 Yes, 19 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶30, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶32, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

Add “and lay” between “clergy” and “members” in first sentence.

Delete “as defined by the General Conference, together with” after “clergy and lay members” in first sentence.

Place a period after “clergy and lay members” in first sentence. Insert the following immediately after the first sentence: “The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, probationary members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶30 (¶32) would read:

The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, probationary members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay

Speaking Ministries, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the central conferences, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

If the lay membership shall number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment - VIII

On May 7, 2004, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 806 Yes, 32 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2000 *Book of Discipline*, Division Five, ¶57, *Article I*, (2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Five, ¶59, *Article I*) amend by addition.

Add a new second paragraph as follows, “In the event that the General Conference adopts an amendment to the Constitution, the General Conference may immediately adopt enabling legislation for such amendment which shall be contingent on ratification of the amendment by the required two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members of the several annual conferences present and voting, and effective once the Council of Bishops, operating as a canvasser of votes, announces that the amendment has been passed. In the same manner, an annual conference may approve legislation in anticipation of such a change in the Discipline and/or Constitution that would likewise become effective upon the effective date of said Disciplinary Change or Constitutional Amendment.”

RESOLUTIONS

1 — Protecting Children from Mercury-Containing Drugs

Whereas, as indicated in its Social Principles, The United Methodist Church affirms¹: “It is imperative... that governments and the medical profession carefully enforce the requirements of the prevailing medical research standard, maintaining rigid controls in testing new technologies and drugs utilizing human beings. The standard requires that those engaged in research shall use human beings as research subjects only after obtaining full, rational, and uncoerced consent.”

and “We encourage wise policies relating to the availability of potentially beneficial or potentially damaging prescription and over-the-counter drugs; we urge that complete information about their use and misuse be readily available to both doctor and patient.”

Whereas, mercury, a known poison, is the second most toxic element on earth, after plutonium,

Whereas, Thimerosal (synonyms include: Thiomersal, Merthiolate, Thimerasol) is a severely toxic organic mercury compound² (approximately 50% mercury by weight) that has been added to some vaccines and pharmaceutical products since the 1930s²,

Whereas, there are some presently marketed vaccines and pharmaceutical products³ that use safe, effective, and economical methods to eliminate the need for Thimerosal (mercury) preservatives,

Whereas, despite numerous peer-reviewed scientific/medical studies published over many decades, at least since the 1940s, that have recommended removing or restricting the use of Thimerosal in medicinal products⁴, the recommendation of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1982, that Thimerosal be banned from topical over-the-counter products, and calls for its removal from all childhood vaccines by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and United States Public Health Service in July of 1999, and by the Institute of Medicine of the United States National Academy of Sciences in 2001, Thimerosal (mercury) still remains in some vaccines (including childhood vaccines and the flu shot), and many other pharmaceutical products^{5,6},

Whereas, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the State of California has officially declared that Thimerosal is a developmental toxin, meaning that it can cause birth defects, low birth weight, biological dysfunctions, or psychological or behavior deficits that become manifest as the child grows, and that maternal exposure during pregnancy can disrupt the development or even cause the death of the fetus⁷ (*The State of California has banned administration of Thimerosal-containing vaccines to children and pregnant women*⁸),

Whereas, the Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness, Government Reform Committee, United States House of Representatives, following a three year investigation into Thimerosal, issued a report, "*Mercury in Medicine*" on May 21, 2003, that concluded [emphasis added]: "***Mercury is hazardous to humans. Its use in medicinal products is undesirable, unnecessary and should be minimized or eliminated... Manufacturers of vaccines and Thimerosal have never conducted adequate testing on the safety of Thimerosal. The FDA has never required manufacturers to conduct adequate safety testing on Thimerosal... Studies and papers documenting the hyperallergenicity and toxicity of Thimerosal (ethylmercury) have existed for decades.***"⁵

Whereas, the Counsel Scott Bloch of the United States Office of Special Counsel (OSC) has called for a Congressional Inquiry into the use of Thimerosal in vaccines and published on May 20, 2004 [emphasis added]:

"I have recently received hundreds of disclosures from private citizens alleging a widespread danger to the public health, specifically infants and toddlers, caused by childhood vaccines which include Thimerosal, a mercury-containing preservative...I hasten to add, however, that based on the publicly available information as discussed briefly below, it appears there may be sufficient evidence to find a substantial likelihood of a substantial and specific danger to public health caused by the use of Thimerosal/mercury in vaccines because of its inherent toxicity."⁹

Whereas, pregnant women and children are advised not to consume excessive levels of fish due to possible mercury exposure, yet are given no opportunity of informed consent as they incur comparable or greater levels of mercury exposure through mandated injections and from many other pharmaceutical products,

Whereas, the Scandinavian countries and the United Kingdom have already

removed Thimerosal (mercury) from their pediatric immunizations, citing, among other things, the risk of Thimerosal-induced autism¹⁰,

Whereas, the mercury content of vaccines intended for use in developing nations, as well as those vaccines manufactured there, has not been reduced, and remains well in excess of Federal Safety Guidelines,

Whereas, it is a violation of the sanctity of human life to inject poison into any being, especially a pregnant woman or a newborn baby,

And whereas, John Wesley modeled a faith lived out in good works, and advocated for social justice and the reform of the nation, and the spread of scriptural holiness across the land,

and Jesus Christ told his disciples, “**Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them for to such as these belongs the kingdom of God,**” (Luke 18:16)

Be it resolved, that the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church does hereby call upon the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to come quickly to the protection of the people, especially the unborn and the children, by:

Immediately advocating that mercury-free stocks of vaccines and other pharmaceutical products be prioritized for pregnant women, newborn infants, and children,

Providing an opportunity of informed consent to individuals about to receive mercury exposure through their drugs/pharmaceutical products/biologics/vaccines, detailing the known risks of its toxicity and Federal Safety Guidelines for Exposure to mercury,

Moving to ban the presence of any mercury compound in a drug/pharmaceutical product/biologic/vaccine, prescribed or over-the-counter, **unless** the presence of that mercury compound has been proven clinically to have **no** adverse effects,

And that the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church refers this resolution to: the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Church and Society for further action; the Interfaith Center for Public Policy for further action; the Council of Bishops for their examination.

It is requested that a copy of this resolution be sent to: The Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States of America; The Secretary of Health and Human Services, Mike O. Leavitt; Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of the CDC; Dr. Lester Crawford, Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA); Dr. Jesse L. Goodman, Director of the FDA’s Center for Biologic Research and Development (CBER); Dr. William Egan, Deputy Director of the Office of Vaccine Research and Review (OVR) in CBER; Dr. Marie McCormick, former chair of the Institute of Medicine; and The Honorable Mark Warner, Governor of Virginia.

Lisa Karen Sykes

Darlene Amon

The Board of Global Ministries, Health and Welfare Division

The Commission on Disabilities

Virginia Conference United Methodist Women’s Executive Committee

Virginia Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action

Children’s Initiative Committee

Referred to: Resolutions Committee

References

¹ *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2004*, Para. 162-L & 162-J, pp. 108-109.

² Pfab R, Muckter H, Roeder G, Zilker T. Clinical course of severe poisoning with thiomersal. *J Toxicol Clin Toxicol.* 1996;34(4):453-60.

Axton JH. Six cases of poisoning after a parenteral organic mercurial compound (Merthiolate). *Postgrad Med J.* 1972 Jul;48(561):417-21.

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Fagan DG, Pritchard JS, Clarkson TW, Greenwood MR. Organ mercury levels in infants with omphaloceles treated with organic mercurial antiseptic. *Arch Dis Child*. 1977 Dec;52(12):962-4.

Rohyans J, Walson PD, Wood GA, MacDonald WA. Mercury toxicity following merthiolate ear irrigations. *J Pediatr*. 1984 Feb;104(2):311-3.

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Hornig M, Chian D, Lipkin WI. Neurotoxic effects of postnatal thimerosal are mouse strain dependent. *Mol Psychiatry*. 2004 Sep;9(9):833-45.

³ Ball LK, Ball R, Pratt RD. An assessment of thimerosal use in childhood vaccines. *Pediatrics*. 2001 May;107(5):1147-54.

⁴ Ellis FA. The sensitizing factor in merthiolate. *J Allergy* 1947;18:212-13.

Ellis published in 1947, "...it may be dangerous to a serum containing merthiolate into a patient sensitive to merthiolate."

Nelson EA, Gottshall RY. Enhanced toxicity for mice of pertussis vaccines when preserved with Merthiolate. *Appl Microbiol*. 1967 May;15(3):590-3.

Nelson and Gottshall published in 1967, "Pertussis vaccines preserved with 0.01% Methiolate are more toxic for mice than unpreserved vaccines prepared from the same parent concentrate and containing the same number of organisms...An increase in mortality was observed when Merthiolate was injected separately, before or after an unpreserved suspension of pertussis vaccine."

Fagan DG, Pritchard JS, Clarkson TW, Greenwood MR. Organ mercury levels in infants with omphaloceles treated with organic mercurial antiseptic. *Arch Dis Child*. 1977 Dec;52(12):962-4.

Fagan et al. published in 1977, "Organic mercurial antiseptics should be heavily restricted or withdrawn from hospital use, as the fact that mercury readily penetrates intact membranes and is highly toxic seems to have been forgotten. Equally effective and far less toxic broad-spectrum antifungal and antibacterial...antiseptics are currently available."

Heyworth MF, Truelove SC. Problems associated with the use of merthiolate as a preservative in anti-lymphocytic globulin. *Toxicology*. 1979 Mar-Apr;12(3):325-33.

Heyworth and Truelove published in 1979, "For many years, merthiolate has been known to have anti-microbial activity. When it was first introduced as an anti-microbial preservative, little information about the fundamental biological effects of organic mercury compounds was available. We would like to suggest that merthiolate should now be regarded as an inappropriate preservative for anti-lymphocytic globulin preparations and other materials which are intended for administration to human subjects."

Forstrom L, Hannuksela M, Kousa M, Lehmuskallio E. Merthiolate hypersensitivity and vaccination. *Contact Dermatitis*. 1980 Jun;6(4):241-5.

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Cox and Forsyth published in 1988, "However, individual cases of severe reactions to thiomersal demonstrate a need for vaccines with an alternative preservative."

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Seal et al. published in 1991, "Thimerosal is a weak antibacterial agent that is rapidly broken down to products, including ethylmercury residues, which are neurotoxic. Its role as a preservative in vaccines has been questioned, and the pharmaceutical industry itself considers its use as historical."

van't Veen AJ. Vaccines without thiomersal: why so necessary, why so long coming? *Drugs*. 2001;61(5):565-72.

Van't Veen published in 2001, "The very low thiomersal concentrations in pharmacological and biological products are relatively non-toxic, but probably not in utero and during the first 6 months of life. The developing brain of the fetus is most susceptible to thiomersal and, therefore, women of childbearing age, in particular, should not receive thiomersal-containing products."

Schumm WR, Reppert EJ, Jurich AP, Bollman SR, Webb FJ, Castelo CS, Stever JC, Sanders D, Bonjour GN, Crow JR, Fink CJ, Lash JF, Brown BF, Hall CA, Owens BL, Krehbiel M, Deng LY, Kaufman M. Self-reported changes in subjective health and anthrax vaccination as reported by over 900 Persian Gulf War era veterans. *Psychol Rep*. 2002 Apr;90(2):639-53.

Schumm et al. published in 2002, "We also recommend that safer alternatives to thimerosal (a mercury sodium salt, 50% mercury) be used to preserve all vaccines."

⁵ Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness, Government Reform Committee. Mercury in Medicine Report. Washington, DC: Congressional Record, May 21, 2003:E1011-30.

⁶ See Appendix 1

⁷ California Environmental Protection Agency – Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Response to the petition of Bayer Corporation for clarification of the Proposition 65 listing of "Mercury and Mercury Compounds" as chemicals known to cause reproductive toxicity. February 2004.

⁸ California Legislation – Bill AB2943. CHAPTER 837. An act to add Article 9 (commencing with Section 124172) to Chapter 3 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to vaccinations. Approved by Governor September 28, 2004. Filed with Secretary of State September 28, 2004. This bill, with certain exemptions, would prohibit, on and after July 1, 2006, a person who is knowingly pregnant or who is under 3 years of age from being vaccinated with a mercury-containing vaccine or injected with a mercury-containing product that contains more than a specified amount of mercury. The bill would require notice to be given to the Legislature and interested parties regarding any exemptions and requests for exemptions.

⁹ United States Office of Special Counsel. Special Counsel Scott Bloch's Letter to Congress, May 20, 2004.

¹⁰ Vaccine Scrapped Over Autism Fear. BBC News – UK Edition, August 7, 2004.

2 — *Act for Peace in the Middle East*

Whereas we affirm Israel's right to exist within permanent, recognized and secure borders, and Palestinians' rights to self-determination and formation of a viable state; and

Whereas there has been some renewal of hope for peace in the Middle East as new Palestinian leadership has emerged through elections, and Israel has announced plans to evacuate its Gaza settlements, both providing a limited welcome momentum for building peace; but

Whereas vacating Gaza settlements will mean the removal of only about 8,000 Israeli settlers out of a total settler population of nearly 445,000¹, with the vast majority of settlements continuing to thrive and prosper with almost 4,000 new settlement dwellings in the Palestinian Territories under construction;²

Whereas to make room for such illegal settlements Israel has illegally demolished hundreds of Palestinian homes, leaving thousands of Palestinians homeless, destroyed hundreds of acres of olive trees, devastating the Palestinian economy, and confiscated thousands of acres of land in the Palestinian territories for Israeli settlements, and built over 200 miles of exclusive settlement access roads, all of which has placed nearly half of the Palestinian Territories under settler use and control;³

Whereas the above illegal destruction of Palestinian homes and economy, and confiscation of Palestinian land, is made possible by the use of armored bulldozers, helicopter gunships, tanks and other equipment supplied to Israel by multinational corporations that profit from such violent and deadly activities;

Whereas, "The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a 'Greater Israel' that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings;"⁴

Whereas The United Methodist Church holds that a boycott is "a legitimate Christian response to an identified social or economic injustice,"⁵ and has joined major boycotts such as one initiated in 1977 against the Nestle Company because of its marketing of infant formula in developing countries, a boycott against Royal Dutch Shell endorsed in 1988 because its connections to the apartheid system in South Africa and, most recently joining, in May 2004, a boycott against Taco Bell restaurants because of the sub-poverty wages paid to farm workers for picking tomatoes used in Taco Bell food products,⁶ all of which were resolved with significant social justice gains such as change in Nestle's marketing practices, abolition of apartheid in South Africa, and significant gains in wages for farm workers⁷ — thereby demonstrating the substantial impact The United Methodist Church and other religious bodies can make when joining struggles for justice and peace;

Therefore, be it hereby resolved that the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church:

1. Calls upon the United Methodist Board of Pensions to review its investments and undertake a process of phased, selective divestment from any multinational corporations profiting from illegal demolition of Palestinian homes, destruction of Palestinian economy and confiscation of Palestinian land, following United Methodist guidelines which require a period of information gathering and evaluation of alternative means of intervention before undertaking a boycott.⁸
2. Calls upon the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society to initiate a study of the feasibility of advocating a wider form of phased, selective divestment from any multinational corporations profiting from the illegal and violent activities noted above.

3. Requests the United Methodist General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns to develop and promote wider avenues of engagement between Christians, Muslims and Jewish communities pursuing justice and peace.

Hunter Mabry, on behalf of the Virginia Chapter
of the Methodist Federation for Social Action

Referred to: Resolutions Committee

Endnotes

¹ Israeli settler population as of 2004: West Bank – 231,800; East Jerusalem – 185,000; Gaza – 8,000; Golan Heights – 20,000; Total – 444,800. Foundation for Middle East Peace, www.fmep.org (9 March 2005).

² Geoffrey Aronson, “Settlers Losing the Battle for Gaza Settlements,” *Report on Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Territories*, (15/1, January-February 2005), www.fmep.org/reports/2005/Jan-Feb/v15n1.html (9 March 2005).

³ Numbers vary greatly, depending on the sources. For example, very conservative sources admit over 600 Palestinian homes destroyed in the last four years, while highly critical sources claim as many as 5,000 destroyed. Over half of all such homes have been destroyed through military operations to make way for Israeli settlements, while punitive demolitions and lack of Israeli-controlled building permits account for the rest. It should be noted that many in the Jewish community deplore such actions by Israel and assert that criticism of Israeli state policy and actions is legitimate and does not imply anti-semitism — see, e.g., Jewish Voices for Peace, <www.jewishvoicesforpeace.org>.

⁴ “Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land,” (Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church, 2004), 789.

⁵ “Guidelines for Initiating or Joining an Economic boycott,” (Book of Resolutions, 2004), 507.

⁶ “United Methodists join boycott of Taco Bell,” United Methodist Communications, www.umc.org (9 March 2005).

⁷ The settlement provided for an eighty percent increase in wages paid to farm workers employed by suppliers to Taco Bell, from 1.25 cents per pound of picked tomatoes to 2.25 cents per pound, that will lift these workers from sub-poverty wages of about \$7,500/year to roughly poverty level wages. “Taco Bell Boycott Ended,” <www.umc-gbcs.org/news/viewnews.php?newsId=9457> (9 March 2005); “Taco Bell and Farmworkers Reach Accords On Concessions,” *Washington Post* (9 March 2005): A6; “Farm workers Yum reach agreement. Taco Bell to pay more for tomatoes,” *News Virginian* (9 March 2005): B5.

⁸ See note 5 above.

3 — Designation of an UMVIM Awareness Sunday in the Virginia Conference

Whereas, the Virginia Conference has long supported the United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) going back to the mid 1970s at its inception with leadership, participation and support from lay and clergy alike; and

Whereas, over 50,000 members of the Virginia Conference have participated in some form of mission volunteer experience in the last 25 years; and

Whereas, in the 21st century the Virginia Conference has seen an increase each year in mission volunteer teams, mission volunteer team members and the amount of money raised in support of mission teams, and topping \$2 million for the first time in 2004; and

Whereas, on average, every church in the Virginia Conference sent three people on a mission team in 2004; and

Whereas, the United Methodist Volunteer In Mission movement in the Virginia Conference has firmly embraced the UMVIM motto of *Christian Love In Action*; be it

Resolved, that each church in the Virginia Conference set aside a Sunday of its choice to be declared Volunteers In Mission Sunday; and that each local church provide for UMVIM displays, information resources, solicit individual or group testimonies, and/or develop other ways to celebrate the UMVIM movement in whatever fashion that best suits the local congregation; and that

Local churches may draw upon the available resources of the Conference UMVIM leadership to help make the day memorable, one of *Christian Love in Action*.

C. M. “Kip” Robinson Jr., Virginia Conference Coordinator, UMVIM
Referred to: Board of Global Ministries

4 — Repudiating the Use of Torture

Whereas, the United Methodist Church believes all people are created in the image of God and are people of sacred worth;

Whereas, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state that “ the mistreatment or torture of persons by governments for any purpose violates

Christian teaching and must be condemned and/or opposed by Christians and Churches wherever and whenever it occurs.”¹

Whereas, Humans Rights Watch has observed that “The United States is a party to the Geneva Conventions, the laws governing the treatment of persons captured during armed conflict. Every captured fighter is entitled to humane treatment, understood at a minimum to include basic shelter, clothing, food and medical attention. In addition, no detainee — even if suspected of war crimes such as the murder of civilians — may be subjected to torture, corporal punishment, or humiliating or degrading treatment. If captured fighters are tried for crimes, the trials must satisfy certain basic fair trial guarantees.”²

Whereas, Jamie Fellner, director of Human Rights Watch’s U.S. Program, has stated “As a party to the Geneva Conventions, the United States is required to treat every detained combatant humanely, including unlawful combatants. The United States may not pick and choose among them to decide who is entitled to decent treatment.”³

Whereas, the abuse and torture of prisoners at Abu Grahیب has shocked the world and tarnished the image of the United States;

Whereas, there have been reports of the abuse of detainees in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay from FBI agents who visited them⁴ and there have been reports of torture from recently released British prisoners who were detained at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base⁵, and;

Whereas, Amnesty International has reported that, in 2002, “the Bush Administration violated the spirit of its own export policy and approved the sale of equipment implicated in torture to Yemen, Jordan, Morocco and Thailand, despite the countries’ documented use of such weapons to punish, mistreat and inflict torture on prisoners. The United States is also alleged to have handed suspects in the ‘war on terror’ to the same countries.”⁶

Whereas, the use of torture against enemy combatants by the United States increases the likelihood that U.S. prisoners of war (or captured civilians) will be subjected to similar treatment,

Whereas, the United States’ authority to criticize human rights abuses in other nations is compromised when it violates the Geneva Convention,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church calls upon the President and the Congress of the United States to repudiate, without equivocation, all acts of torture as defined under the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War⁷, the 1985 United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment⁸, and the 1996 United States War Crimes Act⁹; and be it further

Resolved, that the United States refuse to send prisoners of war or enemy combatants to nations that use torture in the interrogation of prisoners; and be it further

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the United States Attorney General, and members of Congress from Virginia; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the World Methodist Council, urging the member churches of the World Methodist Council to join us in calling upon all governments to repudiate any use of torture.

John D. Copenhaver Jr. and

The Executive Committee of the Methodist Federation for Social Action
Referred to: Board of Church and Society

(Endnotes)

¹ *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*. Part IV: Social Principles, Section V. The Political Community ¶164 “Basic Freedoms and Responsibilities”

² Human Rights Watch: Human Rights News, “U.S.: Geneva Conventions Apply to Guantanamo Detainees,” (New York: January 11, 2002) <<http://www.hrw.org/press/2002/01/us011102.htm>> (accessed March 8, 2005)

³ Ibid.

⁴ NPR “ ‘Guantanamo Guidebook’ Brings Torture to TV” (and related stories) (National Public Radio, February 18, 2005) <<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4504361&sourceCode=RSS>> (accessed March 8, 2005)

⁵ Lacy, Tony. “Former detainees allege torture in U.S. custody” Keep Media: *USA Today* (October 28, 2004) <<http://www.KeepMedia.com/pubs/USATODAY/2004/10/28/622063?extID=10032&oliID=213>> (accessed, March 8, 2005)

⁶ Amnesty International USA, “Amnesty International Report: US Exports \$20 million of Shackles, Electro-Shock Technology” (December 2, 2003) <<http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/usa/document.do?id=F7CE0B13E65E100085256DF00050B882>> (accessed March 8, 2005)

⁷ The Avalon Project at Yale Law School: Geneva Convention (III) Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War; August 12, 1949 <<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/lawofwar/geneva03.htm>>

⁸ Convention Against Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment <<http://www.hrweb.org/legal/cat.html>>

⁹ Cornell University Law School: U.S. Code Collection, § 2441. War crimes: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode18/uscode18_00002441-000-.html>

5—National Hunger Awareness Day

Whereas, over 36 million Americans struggle with the reality of hunger even though God has blessed the United States of America with more than adequate resources, including an extraordinary abundance of food, to provide for the material needs of all her citizens; and

Whereas, the only factor hindering the creation of a hunger-free America is the political and moral conscience to make it so; and

Whereas, National Hunger Awareness Day has been established as a platform for faith-based and domestic hunger relief organizations to raise awareness about hunger in America and the work they do to create a hunger free America (information is posted on the Web at <www.hungerday.org>); and

Whereas, observance of National Hunger Awareness Day has been set for the first Tuesday in June each year; and

Whereas, National Hunger Awareness Day was observed this year with a worship service held in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., attended by over 1,000 people representing major religious and anti-hunger organizations and culminated in visits by the participants to congressional representatives and President Bush on behalf of the poor; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Virginia United Methodist Conference formally and actively recognizes National Hunger Awareness Day as a time to unite and stand in solidarity with and for the poor and those who strive to minister to them; and be it

Resolved further, that each congregation of the Virginia United Methodist Conference be encouraged to serve as advocates for the poor and hungry: by lifting them up in prayer; by supporting conference and general church Advance Specials; by being active in local ministry; by contacting local, state and national representatives; by recognizing National Hunger Awareness Day during a worship service in June each year; and by continuing to stand in solidarity with them until hunger is eliminated from our land.

Mission Education and Cultivation Division, Board of Global Ministries
and Society of St. Andrew

Referred to: Resolutions Committee

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The conference Historical Society, in addition to its support of the conference archives, continues to foster stewardship of the unique heritage of Virginia United Methodism through four primary initiatives. The most visible effort is the publication twice yearly of the bulletin "Heritage." Under the able editorialship of Patti Russell, the "Heritage" articles introduce readers to events, personalities and sites which define Virginia Methodism. A second effort is programs, and in addition to the topics highlighted each year by the district societies, the conference society fall program on Oct. 6, 2005, in Ashland, will celebrate the 175th anniversary of Randolph-Macon College's chartering.

Through its three affiliated foundations, the society aids in interpretation and preservation of the Old Stone Church, the William Waters' grave site and, most recently, the Old Brunswick Circuit properties. Finally, the society participates in denominational efforts to celebrate United Methodist history. A sizeable Virginia Conference delegation attended the July 2004 Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) Historical Society meeting in St. Simon's Island at which Virginia Conference Trustee Thelma Crowder was elected president of the SEJ Society for 2005-2006. In addition, former Virginia Conference Historical Society President Cathy Morgan has been elected as an at-large member of the General Commission on Archives and History.

The following lay and clergy representatives have been endorsed by the conference Historical Society and presented to the annual conference to serve as trustees for 2006.

Clergy: Ira Lee Andrews III, Paul C. Bailey, David A. Balcom, Roger C. Balcom, James M. Becker, Paul Allen Beighley III, Carlton D. Casey, Robert T. Casey, Elizabeth W. Ecklund, Richard H. Ecklund, Walton C. Forstall, James T. Hall, Rodney M. Hunter, Kenneth J. Jackson, R. Harris Kesler, Robinson H. McAden, Reginald H. Potts III, David J. Rochford III, Lee B. Sheaffer, Carl O. Stewart, Elizabeth W. Taylor, Raymond F. Wrenn, Elizabeth A. S. Wright, Gary A. Ziegler, (R. Marvin White, *Emeritus*).

Lait: Florence A. Apperson, David W. C. Berr, Kevin L. Clary, T. Harold Crowder Jr., Thelma Crowder, Jesse H. Fanshaw III, Emily B. Gallup, Beverly Geer, James Christian Hill, Arlene O. Jenkins, Dee Dee Kagey, Anne Keneipp, Judy Ledbetter, Mark F. Leep, Stephen Mansfield, David L. Meyer, Catherine D. Morgan, Brenda NeSmith, Patti B. Russell, Ann P. Shappell, Judee Showalter, Elinor C. Skelton, Harry K. Stevenson, Ethel T. Turner.

Ex officio: Presidents of the district Historical Societies, president of the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation, president of the Old Stone Church Foundation and president of the William Watters Foundation.

Stephen S. Mansfield, *President*

THE OLD STONE CHURCH FOUNDATION

The Old Stone Church Foundation, founded by the Virginia Conference Historical Society in 1974, administers the site of the first Methodist-owned property in America, acquired by deed dated May 11, 1766. Located in Leesburg, Virginia, the site contains the graves of early church members, as well as the foundations of two successive church buildings, is a national Heritage Landmark of the United Methodist Church, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The eight-member Board of Directors and officers meet four times a year in Leesburg.

The 2004 Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at Leesburg United Methodist Church and featured a program titled "Morven Park: From Stone to Stucco," provided by Melissa York and Cathy Hill of Morven Park.

The foundation sponsored Camp Meetings at the site, Aug. 21 and 22, 2004, re-creating the old-fashioned camp meetings of early Methodism, featuring guest evangelists Dr. Keith Almond and Rick Dawson.

The foundation joined with the United Methodist Women from Leesburg and Mt. Zion United Methodist churches in designing and marketing a limited edition throw cover featuring pictures of Leesburg United Methodist Church, Mt. Zion and the Old Stone Church.

Visitors are welcome at the site daily during daylight hours for self-guided tours facilitated by interpretative materials in the kiosk on the site. Membership in the foundation is open to all who share its purpose and make a tax-deductible contribution for its work. For additional information or to be added to the mailing list, please write to: The Old Stone Church Foundation, P.O. Box 426, Leesburg VA 20178-0426.

Letty Mallery, *President*

THE WILLIAM WATTERS FOUNDATION

The William Watters Foundation administers the small cemetery in McLean, Va., which contains the grave of William Watters (1751-1827), the first American-born itinerant Methodist minister. Established in 1996 by the Virginia Conference Historical Society, the foundation continues its three-fold mission of protecting and preserving the grave site and interpreting the role and legacy of William Watters in Methodist history. The cemetery, a circular plot 90 feet in diameter and one-quarter acre in area, has been a registered United Methodist historical site since 1970.

All projects at the site that have been planned or in progress since 1996 were completed by 2004. These include erection of a surround that follows the perimeter of the plot; installation of a walkway from the entrance of the site to and around the graves of Watters and his wife, Sarah Adams Watters; cleaning of the monument erected to Watters over a hundred years ago — in 1892 — by the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church; attachment to this monument of the plaque awarded in 1970 by the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History; and, finally, the erection of a roadside sign designating the location of the Watters grave site in what had been the Adams-Wren-Watters cemetery.

The site was dedicated on May 16, 2004, with Bishop H. Hasbrouck Hughes Jr. speaking on “The Legacy of William Watters.” In the course of his remarks, Bishop Hughes noted the significant roles of Dr. Raymond Fitzhugh Wrenn and Dr. Harold Hasbrouck Hughes Sr. in obtaining title for the Virginia Conference Historical Society Trustees to the property that is now a memorial to William Watters.

Jeanette Marr, *President*

SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The following annual conference sites have been approved by previous action of the Virginia Annual Conference:

- Hampton, June 11-14, 2006
- Roanoke, June 10-14, 2007
- Roanoke, June 15-18, 2008
- Norfolk, June 14-17, 2009
- Norfolk, June 13-16, 2010

The committee has no recommendations at this time.

James L. Gresham, *Chairperson*

NOMINATIONS

Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team

(One person from each district, equal laity and clergy)

Chairpersons:

Susan S. Garrett, *Council Director*

Ronald Hardman, *Lay Leader*

Clergy:

Alexandria – Kenneth J. Jackson

Ashland –Larry Tubbs

Arlington – Herb Brynildsen

Charlottesville – Frank Lasley Jr.

Farmville – Carol P. Mann

Danville – Carole Booth

Harrisonburg – Jeffrey J. Roberts

Eastern Shore – Iris Gunter Smith

Petersburg – Amos S. Rideout Jr .

Lynchburg – Ida Powell

Portsmouth – Robert J. Parks

Norfolk – Janet Bracey

Rappahannock – Vernell M. Carter

Peninsula – Jeannie Hastedt

Richmond – Michael Kendall

Roanoke – Carol Gaston

Staunton – John Ashley

Winchester – Sandra Baker

Appointed by the Bishop

Yunho Eo

Patricio Alcivar

Monitors: COD – Donna Mott, COSROW – Neola Waller, ELCC – Won Un, R&R – Jan Prentace

Common Table for Church Vitality Members

Bishop Charlene Kammerer

Bishop

Dr. Susan S. Garrett

Director of Connectional Ministries/Chair

Mr. Ronald Hardman

Conference Lay Leader/Vice Chair

Mr. Brian Manwiller

United Methodist Men

Mrs. Betty Whitehurst

United Methodist Women

Rev. Timothy F. Tate

Equipping the Local Church (Clergy)

Ms. Darlene Amon

Equipping the Local Church (Laity)

Rev. Bruce D. Tuttle

Mission and New Churches (Clergy)

Ms. Bernadette Mabanglo

Mission and New Churches (Laity)

Rev. Alvin J. Horton

Communications and Conferencing

Mr. Rexford Wolf

Equipping Beyond the Local Church

Rev. Ileana Rosas

Equipping for Inclusivity

Rev. Theodore Smith

Human Resources (Clergy)

Ms. Marilyn Traynham

Human Resources (Laity)

Rev. Mark V. Ogren

Ministries with Adults

Ms. Anne West

Ministries with Youth

Rev. Regina Anderson-Cloud

Ministries with Children

Rev. Clarence R. Brown

Cabinet Representative

Mr. James L. Branscome

Administration

The Secretary of the Annual Conference - Rev. Robert Blinn - is the Secretary of the Common Table (without vote)

Alternates

Larry Burian

United Methodist Men

Nancy Coleman

United Methodist Women

Rev. James Ullian

Communications and Conferencing

Mr. David Grimm

Equipping Beyond the Local Church

Rev. Gary Miller

Equipping for Inclusivity

Rev. Kiok Chang Cho

Ministries with Adults

Mr. Kendall Carter

Ministries with Youth

Mrs. Lelia Denton

Ministries with Children

Rev. Marc Brown
Rev. Robert Casey

*Cabinet Representative
Administration*

Board of Church and Society

Clergy:
Paul Beighley (09)
Elizabeth Ecklund (09)
Randy Harlow (09)
Elfie Finn-McKenzie (09)
William Olewiler (09)
Matthew Smith (09)

Lay:
Marian K. Kelly (09)
Randolph Kendall (09)
James Page Jr. (09)
Maurla White (09)
Michael Wilson (09)

Board of Discipleship

Clergy:
Dan Abbott (09)
Elizabeth Caudill (09)
Brian Sixbey (09)
Patricia Stover (09)
Chris Suerdieck (09)

Lay:
Jean Bauserman (06)
Calvin Hughes (09)
Ana Maria López (07)
Donna McDaniel (09)
Wyley Neal (09)
Brenda Stahl (09)
Susan Wagner (09)

Board of Global Ministries

Clergy:
Jason Duley (09)
David Lough (09)
John A. Martin (09)
Vince Sutlive (09)
Roy White (09)

Lay:
Angelo Aguilera (09)
Jaime Alvis (09)
Emily DeLoach (09)
Chris Icenhour (09)
Alisa Kelley (09)

Board of Ordained Ministry

First Four-Year Term:
Kiok Chang Cho
Yunho Eo
Youtha Hardman-Cromwell

Charles Cox (lay)
Merribeth Neal (lay)
Lorenzo D. Hill

Committee on Investigation for Ordained Ministry

Committee on the Episcopacy

Board of Higher Education Ministries

Clergy:
Tilden Bridges (09)

Lay:
Theresa Carroll (09)
Richard Shickle (09)

Board of Laity

Clergy:
Lynne Hundley (09)
Joseph T. Carson III (08)

Lay:
Linda Rhodes (09)
Chunhoe (Debbie) Yang (09)

Board of Pensions

Clergy:

Lay:
John P. Clarke (08)

Virginia United Methodist Communications

Clergy:

Jay Kelchner (09)
James Ullian (09)

Lay:

Meghann Cotter (09)
Hartley R. Gaston (06)
Barbara Justis (08)
Maxine McKinney (08)
Sidney Traynham (09)

Equitable Compensation Commission

Clergy:

James Sprouse (09)

Lay:

Commission on Ethnic Local Church Concerns

Clergy:

Scott Hopkins (09)
Hyung Il Moon (08)

Lay:

Commission on Disabilities

Clergy:

Lisa Sykes (09)
Mary White (09)
Arthur L. Wolz (06)

Lay:

Jim Fleming (09)
Martha Murray (09)
Anne K. Taylor (09)

Commission on Religion and Race

Clergy:

Martha de la Rosa (09)
Myles Pierson (09)
Charles Stacy (06)

Lay:

Benjamin Dixon (09)
Robert Schoeman (09)

Council on Age Level and Family Ministries

Clergy:

Lynn Alley-Grant (09)
Susan Reaves (09)
William Ricketts (09)

Lay:

Dorothy Ravenhorst (09)
Yoon Su Song (08)
Elizabeth Sumpter (07)

Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Clergy:

Lay:

Council on Finance and Administration

Clergy:

Elizabeth Foss (07)
D. Michael Meloy (09)

Lay:

JoAnn Liskey (09)
Barbara Mason (09)

Leadership Development Institute

Clergy:

Kwang Ho Lee (09)

Lay:

Craig Grabeel (09)

Children's Initiative Committee

Clergy:

Tonya Douce (09)

Lay:

Ellen Cummings (09)
Lisa Koolman (07)
Athena McMillen (09)
Martha Reynolds (09)

Committee on Rules

Clergy:

Lay:

Site Selection Committee

Clergy:

Lay:

United Methodist Foundation

Clergy:

Gregory L. Adkins (08)
Larry Tingle (08)
Jeff Witt (08)

Lay:

Rossie Alston (08)
Harvard Birdsong (08)
Harriett Whitten (08)

Conference Trustees

Clergy:

Sallye Bowen (08)
Alton Washington (08)

Lay:

Edward Harless (08)
Kathleen Lutman (08)

Goodson Foundation

Clergy:

Drema McAllister-Wilson (08)

Lay:

Shirley Cauffman (08)
Dane Mills (08)

Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center

Clergy:

Waverly Reames (09)
Burton E. White (09)

Lay:

Marcella Bullock (09)
Frances Johnston (09)

Virginia United Methodist Housing Development Corporation

Clergy:

Ernest T. Herndon (06)
Clyde Nelson (08)
J. Robert Regan (08)

Lay:

Robert Bain (08)
Ken Branum (08)
Julius Malinowski (08)
George Sterling (08)

Chaplain Service of the Churches of Virginia, Inc.

Virginia Council of Churches Annual Assembly

Society of St. Andrew

Clergy:

Regina Anderson-Cloud (08)
Bishop Joe E. Pennel Jr. (08)
James M. Tongue (08)

Lay:

United Methodist Family Services Board of Associates

New Nominees:

Loretta Benninghove – **Farmville District Clergy**
Jeannie Hastedt – **Peninsula District Laity**
Sandra Hodge – **Harrisonburg District Laity**
Carol Gaston – **Roanoke District Laity**
Richard S. Gordon – **Rappahannock District Clergy**
Allen Edwin Gunther Jr. – **Richmond District Clergy**
William Logan – **Roanoke District Clergy**

Sydney Stewart – **Winchester District Clergy**
Kenneth Tesch – **Lynchburg District Clergy**

Renominations:

Adam White – **Charlottesville District Clergy**
Clara Gestwick – **Harrisonburg District Clergy**
Gloria Saunders – **Norfolk District Laity**
Dolly Porter – **Petersburg District Laity**
Patricia Compton – **Richmond District Laity**

Ferrum College

Richard W. Blackburn
Elizabeth Dickerson
S. Kelly Herrick
Craig L. Rascoe
Betty C. Whitehurst

Patricia Osborne Compton
Carol A. Gaston
Esther Mabry
Donald F. Rogers

Randolph-Macon Academy

To be confirmed:

Norman Rick Frisbie
Tareq Salah
William G. Thomas

Randolph-Macon College

To be confirmed:

Ellen S. Field
William B. Kilduff
Alan B. Rashkind

Charlene P. Kammerer
Stephen P. Long

Shenandoah University

To be confirmed:

L. Janell Hoffman
V. Douglas Joyner (ex-officio)

David T. Forrest (ex-officio)
Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer (ex-officio)

Wesley Foundation at William and Mary

Clergy:

Laity:

Gerald Bullock
Beth Chambers
Paul Clay-Rooks
Gay Lee De Shazor
Katherine Hinkle
Pam Hubbard
Jennie MacBlane
Peter Nye
Mandy Rooker
Allie Rosner
Zaundra Wyatt

Wesley-Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State

James O. Perry

United Campus Ministry at Virginia State University

Martha Jenkins (<i>Chair</i>)	Ann C. Taylor
Alice B. Gray (<i>Treasurer</i>)	Gloria Nolan (<i>Secretary</i>)
Victoria G. Adams	Jimmie L. Battle
Mike Coleman	Herbert Coulton
Rebecca Branch-Griffin	Gilbert Gipson
Melvin Jones	Mel D. Krohn
Abraham Maven	George Partin
Yvette G. Robinson	
<i>Students:</i>	
Michelle R. Arnold	Dana Cephas
David Clark	Wesley Harris
Shamel Ware	

STATISTICIAN

The total membership of the Virginia Conference decreased for the first time in four years, with a loss of 256 for a total membership of 341,850 at the end of 2004. Eight districts showed membership growth — Ashland, Eastern Shore, Lynchburg, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, Roanoke and Winchester. In comparison with 2003, confessions of faith and affirmations were down 540, but transfers from other denominations were up 89. Our churches brought in 1,760 more by confession of faith than were lost by death and gained 924 in transfers from other United Methodist churches, which indicated that we gained in transfers from other conferences. In addition, 1,300 more transferred in from other denominations than transferred out. A total of 4,802 were taken off the membership rolls by charge conference action and withdrawals, 935 more than in 2003. Average worship attendance was down 901 to 123,951 while average Sunday school attendance was down by 226 to 58,429. The 1,211 churches of the Virginia Conference had an average attendance of 102 from an average membership of 282. We have four additional congregations that had not been chartered as of December 31.

Additional information related to financial statistics will be presented at the annual conference session.

James L. Branscome, *Statistician*

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Council on Finance and Administration submits for 2006 the following reports and recommendations for the approval of the Virginia Annual Conference.

SECTION I — Summary of Conference Budget for 2006

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>% Change</u>
A. World Service/Conf Benevolences	\$6,409,257	\$6,566,710	2.5 %
B. Conference Services	1,348,900	1,471,300	9.1%
C. Apportionments (Gen/Juris/VA)	8,599,873	8,691,822	1.1%
D. Health & Pension Expenses	<u>9,303,616</u>	<u>10,264,733</u>	<u>10.3%</u>
TOTAL Conference Budget	\$25,661,646	\$26,994,565	5.2%

A. World Service & Conference Benevolences			
1. World Service	\$2,899,657	\$3,007,194	3.7%
2. Conference Benevolences			
a. Council on Ministries	2,106,475	2,117,266	0.5%
b. Other Benevolences	<u>1,403,125</u>	<u>1,442,250</u>	<u>2.8%</u>
Subtotal	\$3,509,600	\$3,559,516	1.4%
<i>Subtotal, World Service/ Conf. Benevolences</i>	\$6,409,257	\$6,566,710	2.5%
B. Conference Services			
1. Direct Services	\$ 973,900	\$1,071,300	10.0%
2. Mortgage — UM Center	255,000	255,000	0.0%
3. VUMAC Maint/ Replenish Conf Reserves	<u>120,000</u>	<u>145,000</u>	<u>20.8%</u>
<i>Subtotal, Conference Services</i>	\$1,348,900	\$1,471,300	9.1%
C. Apportionments			
1. General & Jurisdictional	\$ 2,960,873	\$2,976,822	0.5 %
2. Virginia Conference Program/Admin.	<u>5,639,000</u>	<u>5,715,000</u>	<u>1.4%</u>
<i>Subtotal, Apportionments</i>	\$8,599,873	\$8,691,822	1.1%
Subtotal, A, B, & C	\$16,358,030	\$16,729,832	2.3%
D. Health & Pensions Expenses			
1. Retired, Disabled, & Widowed Fund	4,513,216	4,947,733	9.6%
2. Conference Health Plan	<u>4,790,400</u>	<u>5,317,000</u>	<u>11.0%</u>
<i>Subtotal, Health & Pensions</i>	\$9,303,616	\$10,264,733	10.3%
TOTAL, Apportionments to Districts & Churches	\$25,661,646	\$26,944,565	5.2%

- CFA reminds all churches to remit their General and Conference Benevolences to the Conference Treasurer on a monthly basis (*Section 617(1), 2004 Discipline*).
- The recommended World Service and Conference Benevolence Budget for 2006 designates 45.8 percent for World Service and 54.2 percent for Conference Benevolences.

NOTE: Further details on the Conference Benevolences, Council of Ministries, and Conference Services budgets are set out in Section II and in the Appendix (Section VIII).

SECTION II — Recommended Apportionments To Districts and Local Churches

Total Recommended Apportionment Levels:

The Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) recommends that the amounts apportioned from the General, Jurisdictional, and Annual Conference be apportioned to the districts as follows. (*For programs and administration supporting our connectional ministries, these recommendations represent a 2.3% increase over 2005. When considering the required expenses of health and pensions programs, the increase over 2005 is 5.2%.*)

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>%Change</u>
Annual Conference Budget			
1. World Service & Conf. Benevolence	\$6,409,257	\$6,566,710	2.5
2. Conference Services	<u>1,348,900</u>	<u>1,471,300</u>	<u>9.1</u>
Subtotal	\$7,758,157	\$8,038,010	3.6

General, Jurisdictional & Annual Conference Apportionments

1. General Connectional Fund	514,932	508,500	-1.3
2. Interdenominational Coop Fund	84,931	84,468	-0.6
3. Ministerial Education Fund	1,078,969	1,086,789	0.7
4. Black College Fund	431,968	433,486	0.4
5. Africa University Fund	99,213	97,023	-2.2
6. Episcopal Fund	<u>750,860</u>	<u>766,556</u>	<u>2.1</u>
<i>Subtotal, General & Jurisdictional</i>	2,960,873	2,976,822	0.5
<i>General Conference apportionments subject to change pending General Conference action.</i>			
7. Equitable Compensation Fund	800,000	800,000	0.0
8. Education Fund	1,650,000	1,650,000	0.0
9. Church Extension	1,250,000	1,250,000	0.0
10. District Superintendents Fund	<u>1,939,000</u>	<u>2,015,000</u>	<u>3.9</u>
<i>Subtotal, Virginia Conference Prog/Admin</i>	5,639,000	5,715,000	1.4
11. Retired, Disabled, & Widowed Fund	4,513,216	4,947,733	9.6
12. Conference Health Plan	<u>4,790,400</u>	<u>5,317,000</u>	<u>11.0</u>
<i>Subtotal, Health Plan & Pensions</i>	9,303,616	10,264,733	10.3
<i>Total, General, Juris., & Va Conference</i>	<u>17,903,489</u>	<u>18,956,555</u>	<u>5.9</u>
TOTAL Apportionments to Districts & Churches	<u>\$25,661,646</u>	<u>\$26,994,565</u>	<u>5.2</u>

Apportionment Recommendation Specifics:

Report on 2004

- 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 2004, the shortfalls for Conference Benevolences and Conference Services were \$122,912. These shortfalls were managed through Conference reserves in accordance with Annual Conference-approved policy.

Episcopal Fund

- The **Episcopal Fund** is apportioned in 2006 at **2.2%** of pastor's base salary, plus utilities allowance, other than heat.

Education Fund

- The **Education Fund** is apportioned to the districts at **\$1,650,000 for 2006**. CFA strongly urges the churches to accept and pay this fund amount in full. Based on recommendations of the Conference Council on Ministries, the following percentage distribution of the fund is proposed for 2006:

→ Ferrum College	19.5%
→ Randolph-Macon College	18.5%
→ Randolph-Macon Woman's College	16.0%
→ Randolph-Macon Academy	10.0%
→ Shenandoah University	18.0%
→ Virginia Wesleyan College	18.0%

Pensions and Conference Health:

Retiree, Disabled and Widowed Fund:

- This fund provides for pension benefits for service **prior** to 1982, as well as medical benefits for retirees, spouses, and disabled clergy.
- \$4,947,733 is apportioned for 2006**, as follows: (1) Retiree Medical Plan (RHP) (\$3,953,487); (2) Disabled, Widowed Spouses Medical (\$431,140); and (3) Pre-1982 Pensions (\$563,106).
- For Pensions Benefit payments related to service prior to 1982, the annuity rate is set at **\$497 for 2006** (for 2005, the annuity rate was \$482).

- **Pension Benefit Fund:**
 - This fund provides for pension benefits for service **after** 1982.
 - Charges are assessed at 12% of Pension Plan Compensation (MPP) up to the DAC (Denominational Average Compensation) and 4.4% for Comprehensive Protection (CPP) up to twice the DAC.
 - Compensation is defined as cash salary plus housing allowance.
 - With consideration of parsonage, compensation is based on 25% of cash salary, but is not to exceed the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC), as defined by the General Board of Pensions.
 - The Denomination Average Compensation (DAC) is set at **\$52,394 for 2006**.
- **Conference Health Plan:**
 - \$5,317,000 is apportioned** for the medical care of active pastors through an annual apportionment of **\$7,200** for each full-time pastoral appointment (including deacon, if so elected by the charge). *(Each extension ministries appointment, where the person is on the Conference Health Plan, will be billed at the same rate.*
 - The contribution level for active pastors in the program is to be based on the deductible level chosen.
 - Medicare supplements for all participants over 65 include a monthly personal contribution for individual coverage or for family coverage based on rates listed in Report 4 of the Virginia United Methodist Pensions and Health Benefits.
 - Retirees over 65 are allowed to elect the same medical options as active pastors, with the personal contribution level being determined by the Conference Board of Pensions.

Church Extension and Development Fund (CEF)

- This fund is apportioned to the districts at **\$1,250,000 for 2006**, and is based on recommendations of the Conference Council on Ministries. 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 Board of Global Ministries for conference-wide grants and loans 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 the Commission on Ethnic Local Church Concerns and the Grants Committee of the Conference Council on Ministries.

SECTION III — Apportionment Procedures

Application of Apportionment Procedures:

- The 2001 Virginia Annual Conference adopted new procedures for the apportionment of funds to the districts, building on new processes adopted by the 2000 General Conference and implemented through the apportionment of 2002 funds to all Annual Conferences.
- Although the General Conference acknowledged that each Annual Conference retained “*authority to apportion those amounts to its charges or churches by whatever formula or method it determines,*” (*Section 613 of the 2000 Discipline*), our conference (through CFA study) recognized that the General Conference changes suggested improvements that could also be considered for Virginia. As a result, the June 2001 Annual Conference adopted new procedures for use starting in 2002.
- The new procedures, adopted by the Annual Conference in June 2001, are recommended for continuation as the Annual Conference apportionment procedures in 2006 as follows:

- § The Virginia Annual Conference will allocate apportionments based on a three-year average of total net paid expenditures plus unpaid administrative apportionments (total expenses less building costs, mortgage and interest and benevolence expenditures).
- § Local church apportionment increases or decreases will be limited to two percent over or below the average increase of total conference apportionments.
- § Apportionments of the Annual Conference are to be provided to the districts and are to be calculated on the average of the last three years of available statistics.
- § Districts, when providing apportionments to the charges, shall use the Annual Conference formula as a guide. District stewards, in cooperation with the district superintendents, may make adjustments, where necessary, to produce a more equitable distribution to the charges.
- § An adjustment scale should be applied to total sums apportioned to districts, with CFA guidance on equitable distributions. *CFA recommends that, in those situations where significant changes occur within those totals, apportionments should lie between minimum and maximum percentages of increases. This serves to make the formula more equitable as it relates to dollar amounts.*

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 (*Section 614.1 of 2004 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 Section 812 of the 2004 Discipline.*

Importance of World Service:

The importance of World Service to the life of the Church is lifted up to the Annual Conference. *"The World Service Fund is basic in the financial program of The United Methodist Church. The World Service apportionment represents the minimum needs of the general agencies of the Church. Payment in full of these apportionments by local churches and annual conferences is the first benevolent responsibility of the Church."*(*Section 812 of the 2004 Discipline*).

SECTION IV — Annual Conference Special Offerings

Annual Conference offerings provide important and life-giving support for key conference programs. The following are recommended for approval for 2006.

- (1) ***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.
- (2) ***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.

- (3) ***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.
- (4) ***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.
- (5) ***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.
- (6) ***Annual Conference Offering.*** CFA recommends continued support for this important offering.

Actions Referred from 2004 Annual Conference
Motion for Establishment of a New Conference Offering

The June 2004 Annual Conference referred to CFA a motion for the establishment of a new Annual Conference offering to support the Gideons in Bible distributions. After reviewing and evaluating the resolution, CFA does not recommend the establishment of this new Special Offering in support of the Gideons.

CFA affirms the Gideons contribution to spreading the word of Christ through their distribution of various Bibles worldwide. However, CFA has two concerns that led it to its non-support of this motion:

- First, CFA is concerned that expansion beyond the current 12 special offerings – six Annual Conference and six General Conference – increases competition with existing local church operating requirements and connectional responsibilities.
- Second, all six Annual Conference Special Offerings provide support for benevolences and programs directly affiliated with the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. CFA is concerned about the precedent that would be set by the approval of a special offering beyond this current approach.

Although not supported as an official Annual Conference Special Offering, there is nothing to prevent any local church to invite a speaker from the Gideon's organization, or receive a special offering. This possibility already exists.

SECTION V — Recommended Policies

District Superintendent's Fund

Overall Policies for the Fund:

- It is recommended that, in compliance with the *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 formula.
- The starting salary for each newly appointed District Superintendent (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 DS's 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 2006:

- § The maximum increase for newly appointed district superintendents is set at **\$3,500 in 2006**. The salary of each district superintendent is **increased by 2.0 percent for 2006**, provided that the changes in salaries remain within the minimum and maximum levels set out above. The apportionment by CFA to the districts for the DS salaries and salary-related expenses is recommended at **\$2,015,000 for 2006**.

Other Policies

(1) 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 28 cents for volunteers 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.

(2) 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 day 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)** disabled clergy;
 - (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; and
 - (j) those on loan to other annual conferences, whose expenses are not otherwise provided for.
 - (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.

(3) CONFERENCE RESERVE FUNDS *Policies on the Maintenance of Reserve Fund Levels:*

- 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; (3) VUMAC; and (4) 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 Conference COM, 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. In accordance with this policy, the 2004 Report is provided below:

Status of Conference Reserves:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2004	\$788,947
<i>Investment Results</i>	
1. Interest/Realized Gain	73,614
2. Unrealized Gain/Loss	95,060
3. Interest on Overnight Investment of Church Receipts	<u>2,160</u>
Subtotal	170,834

Other Income

1. Conference Service Apportionments	35,000
2. Audit Adjustment	<u>9,770</u>
Subtotal	44,770

Conference Shortfalls

1. Conf. Benevolences/Conf. Services Shortfall	-122,912
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Administrative Issues

1. Unreimbursed Episcopal Travel	-961
2. Computer Service Contract	-22,104
3. Unfunded Legal Expenses	-133,118
4. Grant to Conference Foundation	<u>-15,000</u>
Subtotal	-171,183

Ending Balance, December 31, 2004 **\$ 710,456**

(4) PASTOR RELOCATION TRANSITION FUND:

- (a) By action of the June 2003 Annual Conference, CFA has established Pastor Relocation Transition Fund and has provided funding through the Conference Services apportionment.
- (b) Churches/charges which are served by full-time clergy appointed to their charge as pastor would receive 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.
- (c) No moving expenses will be reimbursed that are not in compliance with the Virginia Annual Conference Guidelines for Moving Expenses as printed in the *Journal of the Virginia Annual Conference*.

(5) CONFERENCE JOURNAL:

- A copy of the conference *Journal* is to be sent to each clergy of the annual conference (including retired clergy, associate members, diaconal ministers, appointments beyond local church, and local and student pastors).
- A copy is also to be provided to each charge and Wesley Foundation for use by the laity.
- Upon request, one copy is provided to widows/widowers of deceased conference ministers and each church on a multi-point charge.
- Additional copies may be purchased at \$10 each (\$12 spiral-bound).

- (6) CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:** It is recommended that the Conference-Provided Publications Committee be continued, composed of the following: **(1)** the Director of the Conference Council on 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 mailing that are appropriate to keeping the conference members linked to the business of the Annual Conference.]*

- (7) **CLERGY DIRECTORY:** One copy of the *Clergy Directory* is to be mailed to each clergy authorized to receive the conference *Journal* and upon request, one to each church on a multi-point charge. Additional copies are available at \$2 each.
- (8) **AUDIT REPORTS:** CFA stresses the requirement that all agencies, institutions, and district superintendents 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.*
- (9) **IRS REGULATIONS:** CFA recommends that all church and/or charge treasurers comply with the IRS regulations.
- (10) **REQUESTS FOR BUDGET FUNDING:** CFA recommends that all groups requesting funding from CFA submit requests for budget funding to CFA by Feb. 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 VI – A Church in Mission

The Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) recommends the continuation of the **Church in Mission** educational emphasis by the Annual Conference through a combination of:

- Teaching the basics;
- Communication; and
- Recognition.

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. From this, come the recommendations of the Council on Finance and Administration.

Teaching the Basics:

- Cabinet:** The teaching and learning session continues for the Cabinet, led by the Bishop, where the basic benevolence program of the General Church and the Annual Conference is explained in detail, building on prior year sessions.
- Conference Staff:** The teaching and learning session continues with conference staff, taught by the Council Director and anyone he/she chooses, where the basic benevolence program of the General Church and the Annual Conference is explained in detail, building on prior year sessions.
- Local Church Clergy:** Each District Superintendent will conduct teaching-learning sessions by December 2005, with pastor(s) and laypersons from local churches, who are having difficulty reaching 100 percent of missional support. The superintendent may select any layperson he/she chooses to share in the teaching-learning sessions, which could be held through individual interviews or through cluster sessions of clergy.

- ❑ **Local Church Involvement:** Each local church clergy person is asked to have a teaching-learning session in September/October with key laypersons in his/her local church/charge and may involve district superintendent and/or district lay leader to share in such sessions. All churches are encouraged to maintain 100 percent, or, if lower than the full share, to move toward the 100 percent level for the basic mission work of the church.
- ❑ **CFA, the Cabinet, and Conference Staff:** These organizations will work with the Stewardship Division of the Conference Board of Laity to encourage each local church to participate in a stewardship education program to explore the theological foundation for Christian stewardship. Each layperson is encouraged to share with his/her groups (Sunday school class, Administrative Board/Council, etc.) insights concerning the basic missional funds.

Communication:

- ❑ **Office of Business Manager:** The Business Manager will: Provide each clergy person, Administrative Board or Council, and Chairperson of the Finance Committee with activities supported by the basic missional witness of the United Methodist Church, along with examples of how the church's giving has made a difference.
- ❑ **Each Clergy person** is encouraged to engage in basic missional activity at least one day each month and share information about the effectiveness of that particular mission with the congregation through sermons, mission moments, or newsletters.

Recognition:

- ❑ **Recognition of Churches:** At strategic events, creative means should be developed to recognize certain churches, which have paid their share of the basic mission funding and have exceeded their share through some unusual missional activity. In addition, creative use should be made to explaining one or more specific missional areas under way throughout our conference.
- ❑ **Districts:** Recognition will be given to those churches which have met their responsibility to the basic missional giving, with additional recognition given to those who have "*gone the extra mile.*"
- ❑ **Covenant:** Clergy will be reminded frequently in an affirming manner of the covenant we have with each other and with our brothers and sisters in mission throughout the connection. A part of this covenant is to fund the basic missional witness of The United Methodist Church.

Feedback:

- ❑ CFA encourages feedback on this important and vital emphasis of our conference and recommends continuation of an "*open*" period between January 1 to January 31 of each year for pastors, church chairpersons of mission/outreach, and other interested laity to comment. Comments should be in writing to the Conference Council Director.
- ❑ Feedback and comments should focus on: (1) effectiveness of a basic mission area and why it should be expanded; (2) ineffectiveness of a basic mission area and how it can be improved; (3) suggestions for new missional areas of emphasis; and (4) suggestions of changing/deleting missional areas.
- ❑ CFA and Council on Ministries will review all written suggestions and, where appropriate, consider them for action. *We value all suggestions for improvement of this important mission emphasis as we step forward, both as United Methodists and as Christians, to share in mission, both locally and worldwide.*

SECTION VII — 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 Sections 611.2 and 611.16 of the *2004 Discipline*.

SECTION VIII— The Appendix

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
World Service and Conference Benevolences		
1. World Service	\$ 2,899,657	\$3,007,194
2. Conference Benevolences		
a. Council on Ministries	2,106,475	2,117,266
<i>[COM Programs Included Above]</i>	<i>[250,000]</i>	<i>[273,500]</i>
b. Chaplain Service of Churches	160,000	165,000
c. Virginia Council of Churches	92,000	95,000
d. Appalachian Ministry Network	3,000	3,000
e. Va. United Meth. Assembly Center	120,00	120,000
f. Campus Ministry	898,000	930,000
g. Society of St. Andrew	8,250	8,250
h. Virginia Interfaith Center	10,000	11,000
i. Minister's Family Counseling	20,000	15,000
j. Candidates Evaluation	15,000	15,000
k. Clergy Families in Transition	15,000	20,000
l. Conference Committee on Mission Personnel	31,785	27,500
m. Industrial and Commercial Ministries	5,000	7,500
n. Heart Havens	20,000	25,000
o. Conference Task Forces	5,000	-0-
TOTAL, World Service & Conference Benevolences	\$6,409,257	\$6,566,710

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Council on Ministries Budget (Information Only)		
1. COM Executive Committee	\$ 7,000	- 0-
2. Meetings	15,000	- 0-
3. Common Table	- 0-	7,000
4. Departmental Administration	120,425	121,235
5. Agencies Administration	186,405	193,275
6. Staff Salaries	619,649	598,092
7. Support Staff Salaries	281,893	446,948
8. Support Staff Information Tech Salaries	141,700	- 0-
9. Lay Pensions	48,849	44,393
10. Lay Basic Protection Plan	9,968	10,860
11. Clergy Pensions	37,706	40,572
12. Social Security Taxes/Medicare	59,494	56,601
13. Hospital Insurance (Lay)	63,926	58,600
14. Supplemental Benefits (Clergy)	24,960	28,440
15. Staff Housing	58,500	51,750
16. Staff Training	3,000	3,000
17. COM Office Rent	160,000	165,000
18. Programs	250,000	273,500
19. Computer	5,000	5,000
20. Contingency	10,000	10,000
21. Moving Expense	3,000	3,000
TOTAL, Council on Ministries Budget	\$ 2,106,475	\$2,117,266

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
COM Program Recommendations		
1. Council on Age Level & Family Ministries	\$ 24,000	\$30,600
2. Board of Church and Society	9,000	13,650
3. Board of Communication	40,000	47,000
4. Board of Discipleship	20,000	23,900
5. Commission on Ethnic Local Church	11,000	16,500
6. Board of Global Ministries	35,000	44,500
7. Institutions & Volunteers Ministries Grant Fd	40,000	40,000
8. Virginia Council of Churches	15,000	15,000
9. Board of Laity	9,400	7,450
10. Commission on Disabilities	1,600	5,000
11. Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry	8,000	10,000
12. Board of Ordained Ministry	5,000	4,000
13. Commission on Status & Role of Women	1,000	1,100
14. Commission on Religion & Race	1,000	800
15. Va Conference Leadership Development Inst.	19,000	14,000
16. Scholarships	11,000	- 0 -
TOTAL, COM Program Recommendations	\$ 250,000	\$273,500

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Conference Services		
1. Conference Treasurer	\$ 407,000	\$425,000
2. Computer Services	75,000	75,000
3. Annual Conference Session	170,000	200,000
4. Conference-Provided Publications	40,500	35,000
5. Board of Trustees	2,000	2,000
6. Council on Finance & Administration	7,500	7,500
7. Richmond Area Expense	18,000	18,000
8. Bishop's Assistant	81,500	140,000
9. Conference Chancellor Expenses	5,000	5,000
10. Archives Room	17,000	4,000
11. Historical Society	10,400	9,800
12. Minister's Liability Insurance	12,000	12,000
13. UMB 800 Telephone Number	18,000	18,000
14. Wesley Foundation Long-Term Maintenance	40,000	50,000
15. Conference Auto Allowance	10,000	10,000
16. Insurance/Administrative	20,000	20,000
17. Pastor's Relocation Expense	20,000	20,000
18. Contingency Fund	20,000	20,000
<i>Subtotal, Direct Conference Services</i>	<i>\$973,700</i>	<i>\$1,071,300</i>
19. Mortgage – United Methodist Center	225,000	255,000
20. VUMAC Long-Term Maintenance		
a. Long-term Maintenance	80,000	80,000
b. VUMAC Task Force	5,000	5,000
21. Replenish Conference Reserves	35,000	60,000
TOTAL, Conference Services Budget	\$1,348,900	\$1,471,300

Carl Moravitz, *President*

SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

This report marks the 25th year of our ministry. What began as a small community of two families, living together in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia, has become a great nationwide hunger ministry. Our accomplishments have been significant:

- In our 25 years we have salvaged nearly 500 million pounds of food that otherwise would have been wasted.
- We have provided that food to thousands of feeding agencies, coast-to-coast.
- Our fresh nutritious produce has been made available to literally millions of hungry Americans in nearly every state in the union.
- Over 30,000 volunteers are involved each year in aiding their poorer neighbors through our food salvage ministry.
- We have demonstrated that “gleaning” is a viable and important way to prevent waste of good food, while providing for the nutritional needs of America’s poor.
- Our example has been followed by hundreds of other agencies and programs across the nation until, today, over 200 million pounds of produce are salvaged and delivered to the poor each year.

We are very proud of our ability to serve our God and the poor in this way. And we should be...we have made a difference. At the same time it is a shame that we continue to see so many people in such need, in a land as abundant as ours. So, we’re not celebrating 25 years of ministry. We are commemorating what we have accomplished, and rededicating ourselves to the tasks that lie ahead.

We begin our next 25 with some significant changes:

- We have opened a new regional office in Alabama.
- We have begun a new initiative with the United Methodist Church and the food bank network in Mississippi that should lead to a regional gleaning office in that state by year’s end.
- We are beginning a direct mail fund-raising campaign that will help provide the funds we need to continue to grow our ministry.
- We have moved into expanded office space that will allow us to increase our central Big Island staff as our ministry grows.
- We have assumed a leadership role in guiding and promoting National Hunger Awareness Day, designed to publicize the plight of the poor and to help grow a movement that will eliminate hunger in America.
- We will be joining many other anti-hunger groups, individuals, churches, foundations and corporations in the “Alliance to End Hunger” whose aim is to bring an end to hunger in this country once and for all.

As we begin our 26th year we are looking back on our accomplishments. Proud of what we have achieved, and grateful to God for the privilege of serving in this way. We are looking forward to the tasks that lie ahead, rededicated to the idea that hunger and abundance don’t belong together. God won’t stand for it, and neither will we. With your continued help we will see hunger’s end in our lifetime.

Kenneth C. Horne Jr., *Executive Director*

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST ASSEMBLY CENTER

The Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) is managed by a Board of Directors who strongly believes in the assembly center and its mission to provide a place for spiritual and personal growth. The many boards, committees and agencies of the Virginia Annual Conference use VUMAC for meetings, worship and various types of studies and fellowship. Many other denominations, educational and charitable organizations choose VUMAC as the site to fulfill their purposes.

The Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center continues its ministry of hospitality. This can be attested to by the individuals who attended the 204 events which included workshops and spiritual retreats for almost 18,000 people. This was accomplished on a budget of just over \$1.2 million dollars. The center was able to give United Methodists \$110,000 in discounts in 2004, of which \$42,800 was given to youth and children. The assembly center is grateful for the support of the Virginia Annual Conference through grants such as the Council on Ministries grant which granted the center \$110,000 in 2004. The Council on Finance and Administration also has supported the assembly center through a grant of \$50,000 for long-term maintenance. The Board of Directors continues to encourage donations to the endowment fund which had a balance of \$55,024 at year's end. It is hoped that through a comprehensive fund-raising drive in 2005, the endowment fund will grow in size and ultimately be used for repairs as noted in the center's 20-year maintenance plan. It is through this support that VUMAC can continue to offer a retreat center that continues to provide a serene atmosphere where individuals of all ages can come for an uplifting and rewarding spiritual experience.

The assembly center spent just over \$102,000 on major improvements to the building and equipment purchases. The front of the building's façade was repaired and the roof was recoated. In addition, many pieces of needed equipment, refrigerator, freezer, meat slicer and air-conditioning units were purchased. The work of improving the physical plant of the center is ongoing and is accomplished through fees paid by guests and grants from the Virginia Annual Conference. The assembly center has undertaken a very ambitious project of improving the bedrooms. New paint, mattresses, drapery material, carpet and bedspreads are being purchased. These improvements are made possible through the giving of individuals who are making gifts in memory or in honor of loved ones.

The United Methodist Women (UMW) and United Methodist Men (UMMen) continue to support VUMAC through their gifts. The UMW through the dimes and dollars for Blackstone initiative donated \$41,922.80. The UMMen continue their support through projects such as raising the funds for painting the pool deck, hosting retreats and monetary donations. Their support provides many of the needed items to keep VUMAC in good repair.

The Board of Directors and the dedicated staff at the assembly center continue to offer a meeting and retreat facility where all groups are able to have a spirit-filled atmosphere to plan and implement their programs of ministry.

Mary Jordan, *President, VUMAC Board of Directors*

VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST CREDIT UNION

Of the financial services we provide the United Methodists of Virginia, our latest offering can potentially be the most beneficial as we seek to fulfill our mission statement:

Helping our members earn all they can and save all they can so they can give all they can.

— *Virginia U.M. Credit Union Mission Statement* (in the spirit of John Wesley!)

How often have pastors found themselves in counseling situations where the struggle with personal finances is a major factor? Now your credit union provides a ***free financial counseling service*** to our members. In partnership with ACCEL, members have immediate access to confidential professional financial counseling to assist in budgeting, creditor advocacy, and payment arrangements. Pastors can now refer your people to our credit union for this kind of assistance. It is available to any credit union member by a call to our staff.

Individual members also enjoy the financial services your credit union uniquely

provides: automobile loans, second mortgages, consumer loans with competitive rates, VISA (with a portion of profit benefiting The Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty and high school senior scholarships), money market and IRA accounts, generous dividends on share savings accounts. If you are not now a member of the credit union, we invite you to join with us as we seek to serve the needs of the churches and people of the Virginia Conference.

Check out our services available to assist the local church:

- \$ "Direct debit" of contributions.
- \$ Direct deposit of employee payroll.
- \$ Emergency short-term loan assistance to address immediate needs.
- \$ VISA cards for staff and volunteers to streamline accounting and record-keeping of their ministry expenses and relieve volunteers from using personal funds for church expenses which require later reimbursement.
- \$ Affinity VISA card program with a portion of the profit benefiting your local church.

John Wesley was among the first to organize financial cooperatives among the faithful in the Methodist Movement in England. In the best of our United Methodist tradition, your credit union is the premier financial institution available to you for the best stewardship of your money. Now in our 53rd year, we serve clergy and laity alike to meet the financial needs of individuals, local churches, and other organizations of the Virginia Conference. Any member of any church in the conference is eligible for membership. Any local church can join and take advantage of essential financial services.

William G. Davidson, *President*

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

In December 2004, Africa University Chancellor, Bishop NKulu Ntanbo, and U.S. Ambassador Dell attended dedication and opening ceremonies for Africa University's Faculty of Health Science Building.

Africa University Faculty of Agriculture and National Resources hosted Dr. Gloria McCutchen from Clemson University and Dr. Keecha Harris from Birmingham University for collaborative efforts to strengthen areas of similar programs. Exchange programs are being worked out to exchange teachers and students to link areas of public health and agriculture.

Africa University has an excellent program to establish gift annuities for donors and/or family members. These returns are not based on economic conditions of Wall Street nor are they dependent upon how much Africa University receives from other contributions. They are locked-in annual payments underwritten by all of the assets of Africa University. This is another way Virginia Conference members can reach out to the great work in Zimbabwe. For more details, contact Director of Planned Giving (Elaine Jenkins) at P.O. Box 340007, Nashville, TN., 37203-0007, (615) 340-7428.

As Africa University grows in its ability to serve Africa's youth in a Christian environment, the Virginia Conference needs to look for more ways to be sensitive to those needs and to act.

Thank you for your prayers and your help.

Robert B. Carpenter Jr., *Chairperson*

PREACHERS' RELIEF SOCIETY

For many clergy families a financial crisis presents a challenge of immense proportions. What are the resources available? How shall we meet the additional pressures of these obligations? How do we maintain a level of confidentiality? Is there assistance available through the annual conference?

For those clergy who may find themselves and their families dealing with financial problems of such a nature, the Preachers' Relief Society of the Virginia Annual Conference is a resource to be considered. For over a century, the society has provided grants to assist in the meeting of such circumstances. Utilizing the earnings from a modest endowment from gifts, memorials, and estates, grants are extended to conference clergy and their families.

Upon request of the clergy person to the district superintendent, the superintendent then endorses the request in writing to the society for action by the Executive Committee.

The Preachers' Relief Society holds its annual meeting on the second Tuesday of November, at which time the work and ministry is reviewed, and any vacancies in society membership are filled. Membership is comprised of laity and clergy. The society is registered, as required, by the State Corporation Commission, and reports regularly to the annual conference through the *Book of Reports*.

Officers of the Preachers' Relief Society are: Malcolm L. Yaple, president; W. Alton Carswell, vice president; James R. Bergdoll, secretary; K. Dane Mills, treasurer. Members: Sallye H. Bowen, Robert T. Casey, John Clarke, Henry Rogers. Financial Advisor: Larry Field, Scott & Stringfellow, Virginia Beach, Va.

Malcolm L. Yaple, *President*

GOODSON FOUNDATION FOR HOMILETICS

The Goodson Foundation is an endowed foundation in honor of the late Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson, who provided episcopal leadership to this conference between 1972-1980. The foundation's mission is to further effective preaching of the gospel in the United Methodist churches of the Virginia Conference. Since 1981, the foundation has funded numerous programs and preachers to inspire and teach Virginia's pastors.

The president convened the 2005 annual meeting of the Goodson Foundation at the Virginia United Methodist Center this past May. The foundation financially supports the following:

- Annual conference preacher as selected by the bishop
- Convocation preacher for the Pastors' Convocation
- Donation of *The United Methodist Book of Worship* for Local Pastor's School candidates
- Goodson Academy for Preaching

In June 2004, the annual conference preacher was Dr. Stephen P. Bauman, pastor of Christ Church United Methodist, New York City. This year we are pleased to welcome Bishop Peter Weaver of the Boston Episcopal Area, United Methodist Church. As of 2005, however, honoraria for annual conference preachers will no longer be paid from the foundation's funds.

The 2005 Pastors' Convocation was held Jan. 10-13 at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone. The Goodson Foundation sponsored preaching by Virginia Conference pastors Clarence Brown, Vernell Carter, Sylvia Meadows and James Hewitt. The foundation also sponsored Dr. Larry Buxton as the preaching instructor for the Virginia Conference Licensing School last month.

The Seventh Annual Goodson Academy for Preaching convened April 25-28 in Blackstone with Dr. Paul Scott Wilson, professor of preaching at Emmanuel

College of the Toronto School of Theology. Dr. Wilson is the author of a number of standard texts on preaching, including *The Practice of Preaching*, *Imagination of the Heart*, and *The Four Pages of the Sermon*. This three-day event is designed to foster excellence in preaching with a mix of lectures, small group preaching, workshops and informal learning opportunities. This was the first academy to run under the capable leadership of the new dean, the Rev. Tim Tate.

The 2006 Goodson Academy will feature Dr. John W. Kinney, dean and professor of theology and historical studies at Virginia Union University's Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology. Dates are May 15-18, 2006.

The financial report as of Jan. 1, 2004, showed a balance of \$141,828. The first \$100,000 is the principal; the balance is used to fund the responsibilities outlined above. The foundation attempts to be wise stewards of the foundation funds as well as to fulfill its mission.

Foundation officers remain: Lawrence W. Buxton, president; R. Kendall Soulen, vice president; Willard Douglas, secretary; Dane Mills, treasurer; Tim Tate, dean, Goodson Academy for Preaching.

Lawrence W. Buxton, *President*

SOCIETY FOR WESLEYAN STUDIES

The Society for Wesleyan Studies (SWS) was established in 1983 to renew Wesleyan themes in the life of the annual conference and the church at large. The society sponsors events devoted to the study of issues of Wesleyan history, theology, methods, and mission to consider their importance for the upbuilding of the United Methodist Church and its ongoing ministries and mission. Events and membership are open to all interested persons, lay and clergy, in the United Methodist Church, other Wesleyan connections, and others.

Each year, the SWS sponsors a major fall seminar in October and a spring event in March. Last fall, Dr. James Logan presented, "Developments in Wesley Biography," and Jerry Eyster presented, "John Wesley on Leadership," this past spring. We are excited to host Henry H. Knight III, Oct. 9-10, 2005, presenting on "John Wesley and the Means of Grace." Dr. Knight is the professor of Wesleyan studies at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri. He has published four books — most recently, *Eight Life-Enriching Practices of United Methodists*. His teaching and research interests include Wesleyan studies, contemporary theology, and evangelism.

Begin planning now for October 2006, when Paul Chilcote, professor of historical theology and Wesleyan studies at Asbury Theological Seminary joins us to present "Charles Wesley."

Look to both ClergyNet and VaLaityNet for information regarding SWS, or contact me, the Rev. Elizabeth W. Taylor at <pastor@wesleyhpt.hrcoxmail.net>.

Elizabeth Wright Taylor, *President*

CHAPLAIN SERVICE OF THE CHURCHES OF VIRGINIA, INC.

Since 1920, Chaplain Service of the Churches of Virginia, Inc., has been assigning chaplains to the prisons and juvenile institutions in Virginia. In 1920, there were 1,700 convicted felons in Virginia. Today there are 32,000 men, women and youth incarcerated in Virginia. Chaplains are assigned to 30 prisons and seven juvenile correctional centers.

The budget has grown from \$400,000 in 1995, to \$913,380 in 2005. The Rev. Cecil McFarland completed his 10 years as executive director. He is a retired member of the Holston Conference and an affiliate member of the Virginia Conference. Laura Anderson, an ordained deacon in the Virginia Conference, has been employed as the assistant executive director.

The chaplains preach the gospel, teach the Bible, counsel the prisoners and coordinate volunteers who assist the chaplains with worship and musical programs. Lives are being changed behind bars. Some 10,000 prisoners are released every year.

“Remember those in prison as though in prison with them.” (Hebrews 13:3)

Cecil E. McFarland, *Executive Director*

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL MINISTRIES

During October of this past year, Industrial and Commercial Ministries (ICM) celebrated 35 years of continuous volunteer chaplaincy to business and industry across America. It began at Trinity United Methodist Church when the Spirit of God moved within the hearts and minds of laity and clergy from across the Peninsula District to step out of the church to touch the lives of employees and employers with a caring ministry.

Over the years, ICM has trained thousands of men and women to become “a listening ear and a caring presence” in the workplace where people spend most of their time day in and day out. This unique ministry of servanthood embodies what Christ lived out for people and what he spoke about when he said, “*As you have done (these things) unto them, you have done them unto me.*”

During this past year, ICM has not only conducted some 15 seminars across the Southeast, from Florida to Virginia and west to Arkansas, but has reached into Nassau, the Bahamas, this past January. Many new chaplains have been trained for the first time, including some 60-plus laity and clergy from the Bahamas. In addition, a number of advance courses have also been offered at our training seminars.

Listen to those who have experienced the challenge and beauty of serving others in Christ’s name in the workplace:

“I heard about ICM ministries in the early 1970s. What intrigued me was a church ministry that reached out to a community industrial setting. This is what Christianity is all about.” (Dr. Pascal Cooper, Truck Enterprises)

Commenting on her volunteer chaplaincy with the Newport News Fire Department, the chaplain remarked, “It’s a mission. It’s my life. This is my job.” (Marie Boyd)

“This ministry has helped people be happier in their work and in their life. . . you don’t have to be a pastor to do this. All you have to do is care for people.” (Wayne Wright, Rockingham Memorial Hospital)

What a wonderful witness of the church of Jesus Christ. As an extension of the church, ICM seeks to:

- Carry the concern and compassion of the church into the workplace.
- Remind employees, by our presence, that God is also present in the workplace, not just the church.
- Help relieve the pressures on the employees encountered at the workplace and the stress they realize there and they bring from home.

We give thanks for all our volunteer chaplains and the wonderful support we have received this year from our brothers and sisters across the Virginia Annual Conference. It is our prayer that such support will continue in the coming conference year and that our local churches will remember ICM on Labor Day Sunday, or a Sunday in September, with a “special offering” for our ministry. With deep gratitude we extend God’s grace and peace to you.

E. Thomas “Tom” Murphy, *National Executive Director*

**A REPORTING GUIDE FOR LAY MEMBERS
OF THE 2005 VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June 12-15, 2005

Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer, Presiding

Ronald L. Hardman, 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 Annual Conference

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, ¶601, Section IX, 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.”

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, ¶129, 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 2005 Virginia Annual Conference session. 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 *The Book of Discipline*, 2004.

— “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 *The Book of Discipline*, 2004.

THIS GUIDE IS PRINTED 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 report and interpretation of the actions and business of the 2005 annual conference session for sharing back in their local church.

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 your Orange Voting Card 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 Standing Rules or Order and Procedure printed near the front of the *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*. It is important to review your Program and Worship Book and keep them readily available with the *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 1,210 churches which are divided into 18 districts across the Virginia Conference. (See the official figure in the Statistician’s Report in this *Book of Reports*.) It is important that we be faithful to this responsibility.

PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW

The presiding bishop: Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer

The conference council director: Dr. Susan S. Garrett

Conference lay leader: Ronald L. Hardman

Conference president of United Methodist Women: Betty Whitehurst

Conference president of United Methodist Men: Brian Manwiller

Conference president of United Methodist Youth: Anne West
Conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries: Keith Willyard

SELECT, OBSERVE, CONSIDER while at annual conference.

A balanced and interesting report interpreting the work of annual conference should include “facts,” “feelings,” and “flavors.” Thus 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.
- Use your own creativity.

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: - Consider your notes. Write in the margins of the issue as it appears in the *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 these 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 8:30 a.m. Monday, June 13, in the Hampton Coliseum for worship and information related to conference issues.

LAITY BANQUET — Monday, June 13, 5 p.m. Contact your district lay leader for ticket information. No tickets will be sold at annual conference. The speakers will be Bishop Kammerer and Dr. James Holsinger, former Virginia Conference lay leader.

This guide is prepared for you by the Board of Laity, Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Any comments, questions or suggestions should be directed to Ron Hardman, Conference Lay Leader, 11179 Eagle Watch, Smithfield, VA 23430-5731. E-mail <RonMar11179@aol.com>; telephone (757) 357-0169.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

MAY 2005

- 24 Credit Union, Full Board, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 26 Equitable Compensation Commission, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 27 Va. UM Center Closes at 1 p.m.
- 28 R-MC Commencement
- 28 R-MA Commencement, 10 a.m., Melton Gym
- 30 Va. UM Center Closed, Memorial Day Observance

JUNE 2005

- 12-15 Annual Conference, Hampton
- 13 Annual Conference Laity Banquet, Hampton
- 13 Va. UCom Board Luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Holiday Inn, Hampton
- 18-7/1 Summer Project Youth Mission Week, Fieldstone UMC, Christiansburg
- 22 R-MA Board of Trustees Meeting, 1 p.m., R-MA
- 24-26 VWC Alumni Reunion Weekend
- 24-7/18 Voices of Youth Tour, Tennessee and Virginia
- 26-7/22 R-MA Summer School
- 28 Credit Union Executive Board, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center

JULY 2005

- 1 Application Deadline for Pell Grants and Service Loans
- 1 Va. UM Center Closes at 1 p.m.
- 4 Va. UM Center Closed, Independence Day Observance
- 8 Application Deadline for Clergy Development Grants
- 8-9 VWC Freshman Orientation session, VWC
- 9-8/5 Summer Project Youth Mission Week, Fieldstone UMC, Christiansburg
- 10-15 Camp Rainbow Connection, VUMAC
- 14 UMMen Day at Camp Rainbow Connection, VUMAC
- 15 Application Packets for Changes in Conference Relationships (probationary, associate, full membership and professional certification) available
- 15 Deadline for 2006 Healing the Hurts Grant Requests
- 15-16 VWC Freshman Orientation session, VWC
- 15-17 Ninth National Gathering of UMMen, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
- 16 Commission on Religion and Race Meeting, Va. UM Center
- 20 New Church Leadership Academy, "Facilities and Funding" with Dr. Sam Dixon, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 21-24 SEJ Laity Spiritual Retreat, Lake Junaluska, NC
- 22-24 School of Christian Mission Weekend Session, VUMAC
- 24-28 SEJ Youth/Young Adult Leadership Assembly, Lake Junaluska, NC
- 25-28 School of Christian Mission Week Session, VUMAC
- 26 Credit Union Executive Board, 10 a.m., Credit Union Office
- 26 Orientation for Applicants for Full Membership, Va. UM Center
- 26-27 Probationers' Residency Event (Years 1 and 2), Va. UM Center
- 28-29 MEC Meeting, VUMAC
- 29-31 SEJ Lay Speaking Gathering, Lake Junaluska, NC
- 31-8/5 All God's Children Camp, Camp Highroad, Middleburg

AUGUST 2005

- 1 Deadline for Church Extension Fund Grant/Loan Applications
- 5-7 Va. UM Youth Leadership Assembly (VUMDYLA), Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg

- 7-12 Camp Rainbow Connection, VUMAC
- 7-12 All God's Children Camp, Camp Alta Mons, Shawsville
- 8-10 "Are You Listening" Exploring Ministry Event, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland
- 11 UMMen Day at Camp Rainbow Connection, VUMAC
- 12-13 Lay Supply Pastors' Training, VUMAC
- 14-19 All God's Children Camp, Westview on the James, Goochland
- 15-19 Methodist Madness Youth Week, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
- 19-21 Young Women's Weekend, VUMAC
- 21-26 All God's Children Camp, Occohannock on the Bay, Belle Haven
- 23 Credit Union, Full Board, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 26-28 Middle School Mission Weekend I, Westview on the James, Goochland
- 27 Shenandoah University Term III Commencement, 11 a.m., Ohrstrom-Bryant Theatre
- 27-28 Academy of Servant Leadership, VUMAC
- 29 Fall Semester Begins at VWC
- 29 Fall Semester Begins at Ferrum College
- 29-30 Academy of Servant Leadership, VUMAC

SEPTEMBER 2005

- 2 Va. UM Center Closes at 1 p.m.
- 5 Va. UM Center Closed for Labor Day Observance
- 5 R-MA 113th School Year Begins
- 5 Credit Union Closed for Labor Day Observance
- 8 CPCD Conference Call
- 8 CLDDT, Va. UM Center
- 9 BOM application deadline for all applicants for February and March interviews
- 10 Conference Board of Laity, Va. UM Center
- 12 Orientation for Applicants for Probationary and Associate Membership, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Va. UM Center
- 12 Conference Board of Trustees, 10 a.m., Room 201, Va. UM Center
- 13 Candidacy Mentor Training, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Va. UM Center
- 13 Old Stone Church Foundation Annual Meeting, Leesburg UMC, Leesburg
- 14 New Church Leadership Academy, "Building a Discipleship System" with Dr. Nancy Rankin and Bev Coppley, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 16 Va. UCom Full Board, 10 a.m., Cabinet Room, Va. UM Center
- 17 Bishop's Convocation on Religion and Race, 9:30 a.m., Reveille UMC, Richmond
- 22 COM Executive Committee, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 23 Children's Initiative Committee Meeting, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Va. UM Center
- 23-24 Board of Church and Society, TBA
- 23-24 COD Retreat/Board Meeting, VUMAC
- 23-24 COSROW Joint Retreat with COD and CORR, VUMAC
- 26 Candidacy Mentor Training, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Va. UM Center
- 26-27 Board of Higher Education Ministries, TBA
- 26-29 Wesley Seminary Learning Resource Center, Washington, DC
- 27-28 Credit Union, Planning Retreat, Full Board, VUMAC
- 28 New Clergy Orientation (for those not in Licensing School), Va. UM Center
- 28 R-MA Board of Trustees Meeting, 1 p.m., R-MA
- 28 UM Foundation Board of Directors Fall Meeting

- 30 Adult Youth Workers' Academy, TBA
- 30-10/1 UMMen Cabinet Retreat, VUMAC
- 30-10/1 Parents and Family Weekend at VWC
- 30-10/2 All God's Children Camp, Camp Overlook, Keezletown

OCTOBER 2005

- 1 Application deadline for Pell Grants and Service Loans
- 3 Health and Welfare Divison, 10 a.m., Room 111 Va. UM Center
- 4 Sexual Ethics Training, Va. UM Center
- 4 CPCD Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 4 Shenandoah University Board of Trustees Meeting, 3 p.m., Byrd Board Room
- 6 BGM Executive Committee, 9:30 a.m.; Full Board, 10:30 a.m., TBA
- 6 Historical Society Executive Committee, 9:30 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 6 Historical Society Trustees Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 7-8 New Church Leadership Academy, 24-Hour Retreat with Spouses, Led by Jim Griffith
- 7-9 United Methodist Church Celebration of Children's Sabbath Weekend
- 7-9 VWC Homecoming
- 8 UMW Budget Meeting, Va. UM Center
- 9-10 Society for Wesleyan Studies Fall Seminar (0.5 CEU), 7 p.m. Sunday-2 p.m. Monday, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond
- 10 Credit Union Closed for Columbus Day
- 10-15 United Nations Seminar, New York City
- 11 CUIC Meeting, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond
- 11-12 VCC Joint Ecumenical Retreat, Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond
- 12 CFA, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 12 BGM Executive Committee, 9:30 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 12 BGM Full Board, 10:30 a.m., Rooms 117 & 118, Va. UM Center
- 13 Va. UCom Executive Committee, 10 a.m., Room 117, Va. UM Center
- 16 Laity Sunday Observed in Local Churches
- 16-17 Extension Ministers Retreat with the Bishop, VUMAC
- 17 Training for Probationers' Mentors, VUMAC
- 18-19 First-Year Probationers Retreat with Mentors, VUMAC
- 19 VWC Fall Board of Trustees Meeting
- 20 COM Executive Committee, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 20-22 R-MWC Board of Trustees
- 21-22 R-MA Homecoming
- 21-22 R-MC Board of Trustees Meeting, 9 a.m., Peele Hall, Mullen Room
- 21-23 Middle School Mission Weekend II, Hunting Ridge, Winchester
- 22 Sexual Ethics Training
- 22 Folklife Festival, Ferrum College
- 25 Credit Union, Executive Board, 10 a.m., Credit Union Office
- 27-28 UMW Mission Team & Executive Committee, VUMAC
- 28-30 Combined Conference Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
- 29-30 UMW 33rd Annual Meeting, VUMAC

NOVEMBER 2005

- 1 Training of New Board of Ordained Ministry Members, 6-9 p.m., VUMAC
- 2 Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., VUMAC
- 3-5 R-MWC Board of Trustees Meeting
- 4 Ferrum Fall Board of Trustees Meeting

- 4-6 UMMen Annual Spiritual Retreat, VUMAC
- 4-6 Annual Scouting Fellowship, VUMAC
- 7 Culture Sensitivity Training, 1-3 p.m., Va. UM Center
- 7 Full COM, Va. UM Center
- 10 Order of Deacons, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Room 201, Va. UM Center
- 10 CLDDT Meeting, Va. UM Center
- 11-13 Middle School Conference Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
- 12 VWC Day, Open House
- 13 UMVIM Team Leader Training, 9:30 a.m., Lakeside UMC, Richmond
- 15 Board of Laity, Executive Committee, Va. UM Center
- 16-17 VCC Coordinating Cabinet/Annual Gathering, Charles City
- 17 New Church Leadership Academy, "Leadership in a New Church" with Lovett Weems, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 18 Clergy Development Application Deadline
- 19 Commission on Religion and Race Meeting, Va. UM Center
- 22 Credit Union, Executive Board, 10 a.m., Credit Union Office
- 23 Va. UM Center Closes at 1 p.m.
- 24-25 Va. UM Center Closed, Thanksgiving
- 24-25 Credit Union Closed, Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 2005

- 2-4 High School Conference Youth Retreat, Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg
- 3 UMMen Cabinet Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 9 Deadline for All Materials for February Interviews (Full Membership and Professional Certification)
- 13 Application Deadline for Conference Advance Special
- 13 Credit Union, Full Board, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 17 Shenandoah University Term I Commencement, 11 a.m., Ohrstrom-Bryant Theatre
- 22 Va. UM Center Closes at 1 p.m.
- 23-27 Va. UM Center Closed, Christmas Observance
- 23-26 Credit Union Closed, Christmas Observance

JANUARY 2006

- 1 Deadline for Church Extension Fund Grant/Loan Applications
- 1 Deadline for CPCD Grant Applications
- 2 Va. UM Center Closed, New Year's Day Observance
- 2 Credit Union Closed, New Year's Day Observance
- 3-23 Winter Session at VWC
- 5 CPCD Conference Call
- 9-12 Ministers' Convocation, VUMAC
- 13 Deadline for all materials for March interviews (probationary and associate membership)
- 16 Va. UM Center Closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 16 Credit Union Closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 16 Spring Semester Begins, Ferrum College
- 18 VWC Winter Board of Trustees Meeting
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 21 Commission on Religion and Race Meeting, Va. UM Center
- 23-24 New Church Leadership Academy, Exit Interviews
- 24 Credit Union Full Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 25 VWC Spring Semester Begins
- 25 R-MA Board of Trustees, 1 p.m., R-MA
- 26 United Methodist Day at General Assembly, Richmond

- 28 Board of Church and Society, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 28 Conference Board of Laity, Va. UM Center
- 28 VWC Day, Open House
- 29-2/1 BOM Board Meeting: Interviews for Full Membership, VUMAC
- 31 CPCD Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center

FEBRUARY 2006

- 4 UMMen Cabinet Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 4 COSROW Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 6 Health and Welfare Division, 10 a.m., Room 111, Va. UM Center
- 8 Deadline for COM 2007 Administrative Budget Requests
- 9 BGM Executive Committee, 9:30 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 9 BGM Full Board, 10:30 a.m., Rooms 117 & 118, Va. UM Center
- 9-11 R-MWC Board of Trustees Meeting
- 10 Clergy Development Application Deadline
- 20 Credit Union Closed for President's Day for Staff Planning
- 23 Va. UCom Executive Committee, 9:30 a.m., Room 118; Full Board, 10:30 a.m., Room 117, Va. UM Center
- 23 VCC Coordinating Cabinet Meeting, TBA
- 24-25 R-MC Board of Trustees Meeting, 9 a.m., Peele Hall, Mullen Room
- 24-26 School of Lay Speaking Ministries, VUMAC
- 28 Credit Union Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Credit Union Office

MARCH 2006

- 2 COD Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 3-5 Youth and Young Adult Conference Council Meeting, VUMAC
- 5-8 BOM Board Meeting: Interviews for Probationary and Associate Membership, VUMAC
- 6 Conference Board of Trustees, Room 201, Va. UM Center
- 10 Deadline for Material for *Book of Reports*
- 17-18 UMW Mission Team & Executive Committee, Arlington
- 18 Commission on Religion and Race Meeting, Va. UM Center
- 20-21 Continuing Education Seminar, Dr. Fred B. Craddock, VWC
- 22 UM Foundation Board of Directors Spring Meeting
- 24-26 Exploring Call to Ministry, UVA
- 28 Credit Union Full Board Meeting, 9 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 28 Credit Union Annual Meeting, 11 a.m., Va. UM Center

APRIL 2006

- 1 UMMen Leadership Development Day, 9 a.m., Bon Air UMC, Richmond
- 1-2 Awakening 2006, Paramount's Kings Dominion, Doswell
- 8 VWC Day, Open House
- 13 Va. UCom Ex. Committee, 10 a.m., Room 209, Va. UM Center
- 14 Credit Union Closed for Good Friday Observance
- 14 Va. UM Center Closed, Good Friday Observance
- 21-22 Camp Rainbow Connection Staff Training, VUMAC
- 21-23 Youth Advocates for Christ, TBA
- 22 COSROW Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 22-23 Laity Spiritual Growth Retreat, VUMAC
- 25 Credit Union Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Credit Union Office
- 28-30 School of Christian Mission Weekend Session, VUMAC
- 31-8/3 School of Christian Mission Week Session, VUMAC

MAY 2006

- Young Adult Retreat, TBA
- 1 Application Deadline for Licensing School
- 4-6 R-MWC Board of Trustees Meeting
- 5-6 R-MC Board of Trustees Meeting, 9 a.m., Peele Hall, Mullen Room
- 6 UMMen Cabinet Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 8-9 Probationers' Residency Event (Years 1 and 2), Va. UM Center
- 8-11 National Workshop on Christian Unity, San Jose, CA
- 12 VWC Baccalaureate Service
- 12 Ferrum Spring Board of Trustees Meeting
- 13 Conference Board of Laity, Va. UM Center
- 13 VWC Commencement, 11 a.m.
- 13 Ferrum College Commencement
- 14 R-MWC Commencement, 10 a.m.
- 15-18 Goodson Academy for Preaching, VUMAC
- 17 BOM Executive Committee, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Va. UM Center
- 17 VWC Spring Board of Trustees Meeting
- 18-26 Local Pastors' Licensing School
- 19-21 UMW Spiritual Life Retreat, "Resurrection Women," VUMAC
- 20 Commission on Religion and Race Meeting, Va. UM Center
- 22 VWC Summer Session Begins
- 23 Credit Union Full Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 23 VCC Coordinating Cabinet/Faith in Action Award Ceremony, TBA
- 26 Va. UM Center Closes at 1 p.m.
- 27 R-MC Commencement, 10 a.m., Jordan Wheat Lambert Historic Campus
- 29 Va. UM Center Closed, Memorial Day Observance
- 29 Credit Union Closed for Memorial Day

JUNE 2006

- 11-14 Annual Conference Session, Hampton Coliseum
- 12 Va. UCom Board Luncheon at Annual Conference, 12:30 p.m., TBA
- 12 Annual Conference Laity Banquet, Hampton
- 13 UMMen Conference Breakfast, 6:30 a.m., Bethany UMC
- 27 Credit Union Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Credit Union Office

JULY 2006

- Course of Study — Wesley and Duke
- 1 Application Deadline for Pell Grants and Service Loans
- 3 Va. UM Center Closes at 1 p.m.
- 4 Va. UM Center Closed, Fourth of July Observance
- 4 Credit Union Closed, Fourth of July Observance
- 7 Clergy Development Application Deadline
- 8-14 July Session of Camp Rainbow Connection, VUMAC
- 13 UMMen Day at Camp Rainbow Connection, VUMAC
- 15 Deadline for Healing the Hurts Grant Requests
- 20-23 SEJ Laity Spiritual Retreat, Lake Junaluska, NC
- 25 Credit Union Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Credit Union Office
- 28-30 SEJ Lay Speaking Ministry Gathering, Lake Junaluska, NC
- 28-30 School of Christian Mission, Weekend Session, VUMAC
- 31-8/3 School of Christian Mission, Week Session, VUMAC

AUGUST 2006

- 1 Deadline for Church Extension Fund Grant/Loan Applications
- 10 UMMen Day at Camp Rainbow Connection, VUMAC
- 12-18 August Session of Camp Rainbow Connection, VUMAC
- 18-20 UMW Young Women's Weekend, VUMAC
- 22 Credit Union Full Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center

SEPTEMBER 2006

- 1 Va. UM Center Closes at 1 p.m.
- 1 Deadline for CPCD Grants
- 4 Va. UM Center Closed, Labor Day Observance
- 4 Credit Union Closed for Labor Day Observance
- 8-9 Va. UMCom Board Retreat, VUMAC
- 9 Conference Board of Laity, Va. UM Center
- 11 CPCD Conference Call
- 11 Conference Board of Trustees, Room 201, Va. UM Center
- 16 Commission on Religion and Race Meeting, Va. UM Center
- 16 COSROW Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 26-27 Credit Union Board Planning Retreat, VUMAC
- 27 UM Foundation Board of Directors Fall Meeting

OCTOBER 2006

- 3 CPCD Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 6-8 United Methodist Church Celebration of Children's Sabbath Weekend
- 7 UMMen Cabinet Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 9 Credit Union Closed for Columbus Day
- 10-11 VCC Joint Ecumenical Retreat, Roslyn Center, Richmond
- 12 Va. UMCom Executive Committee, 10 a.m., Room 209, Va. UM Center
- 12 BGM Executive Committee, 9:30 a.m., TBA
- 12 BGM Full Board, 10:30 a.m., TBA
- 14 UMW Budget Meeting
- 15 Laity Sunday Observed in Local Churches
- 18 VWC Fall Board of Trustees Meeting
- 24 Credit Union Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Credit Union Office
- 26-27 UMW Mission Team & Executive Committee, VUMAC
- 28-29 UMW 34th Annual Meeting & Women's Division Training, VUMAC

NOVEMBER 2006

- 1 BOM Meeting, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., VUMAC
- 3-5 UMMen Annual Spiritual Retreat, VUMAC
- 3-5 Annual Scouting Fellowship, VUMAC
- 14 Board of Laity Executive Committee, Va. UM Center
- 15/16 VCC Coordinating Cabinet/Annual Gathering, TBA
- 17 Commission on Religion and Race Meeting, Va. UM Center
- 22 Va. UM Center Closes at 1 p.m.
- 23-24 Va. UM Center Closed for Thanksgiving Observance
- 23-24 Credit Union Closed for Thanksgiving Observance
- 28 Credit Union Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Credit Union Office

DECEMBER 2006

- 2 UMMen Cabinet Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center
- 19 Credit Union Full Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Va. UM Center

- 21 Va. UM Center Closes at 1 p.m.
 22-26 Va. UM Center Closed for Christmas Observance
 25-26 Credit Union Closed for Christmas Holidays

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN CALENDAR

AEI	Association of Educational Institutions
ALFM	Age Level and Family Ministries
BGM	Board of Global Ministries
BHECM	Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry
BOD	Board of Discipleship
BOM	Board of Ordained Ministry
CEU	Continuing Education Unit
CCMP	Conference Committee on Mission Personnel
CCYM	Conference Council on Youth Ministries
CFA	Council on Finance and Administration
CLDDT	Conference Leadership Discovery and Development Team
COD	Commission on Disabilities
COM	Council on Ministries
CORR	Commission on Religion and Race
COSROW	Commission on the Status and Role of Women
CPCD	Conference, Parish and Community Development
CUIC	Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns
LDI	Leadership Development Institute
MEC	Mission, Education and Cultivation
PAUMCS	Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries
R-MA	Randolph-Macon Academy
R-MC	Randolph-Macon College
R-MWC	Randolph-Macon Woman's College
SEJ	Southeastern Jurisdiction
SEJYMO	Southeastern Jurisdiction Youth Ministry Organization
SoSA	Society of St. Andrew
TBA	To Be Announced
UMC	United Methodist Church
UMCom	United Methodist Communications
UMMen	United Methodist Men
UMVIM	United Methodist Volunteers In Mission
UMW	United Methodist Women
UN	United Nations
UVA	University of Virginia
VCC	Virginia Council of Churches
VUMAC	Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone
Va. UM Center	Virginia United Methodist Center in Glen Allen
VUMDYLA	Virginia United Methodist District Youth Leaders Assembly
VWC	Virginia Wesleyan College
YAC	Youth Annual Conference
YSF	Youth Service Fund

DISTRICT ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE *BOOK OF REPORTS*

A-Alexandria	F-Farmville	Pr-Portsmouth
Ar-Arlington	H-Harrisonburg	Rp-Rappahannock
Ad-Ashland	L-Lynchburg	Rd-Richmond
C-Charlottesville	N-Norfolk	Rn-Roanoke
D-Danville	Pn-Peninsula	S-Staunton
E-Eastern Shore	Pt-Petersburg	W-Winchester

Mission Opportunities During Annual Conference

2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERING

Each year, members of local churches are encouraged to participate in raising money for projects designated by the bishop. The money, brought to conference by a representative from each church, will be collected during a special time of the session. This year's offering goal is \$300,000 for the following global and Virginia projects:

- **Brazil: Providing for Street Children in Crisis (\$50,000)** The offering will assist the Brazilian Methodist Church in providing intervention and alternatives for the thousands of street children, forced to live on the streets because of high poverty rates and families' inability to care for their own children. We want to help by providing food, clothing, supervised play, and adult intervention.
- **Mozambique: Training and Housing Assistance for Teachers/Continuation of School Construction (\$100,000)** The offering will undergird and strengthen the facilities the Virginia Conference has provided over the last four years. There is a critical need for training, housing for teachers, carpentry and agricultural tools, computers, furniture, and Phase II construction for the girl's dormitory.
- **Russia: Pastoral Training (\$50,000)** The offering will guarantee that the Russia United Methodist Theological Seminary in Moscow will be completed. The seminary is already training a new generation of pastors, plus the pastors already serving more than 100 churches. Our offering will focus on the training of the pastors and is urgently needed.
- **Virginia Children's Projects (\$100,000)** Since 1996, the Virginia Conference has sought to reach out to the "least of these" in neighborhoods and local communities through the work of the Children's Initiative Committee by focusing on ministries for and with children who are at-risk and/or living in poverty. Locally, this year's offering will benefit children of incarcerated mothers in Virginia jails or prisons. Our funds will be directed to All God's Children camps, expanding to four weeks in camp facilities across the conference. Some of the funds will provide seed grants to local churches for ministry with impoverished children.

POTATO DROP

The conference Board of Global Ministries (BOGM) and the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) are cosponsoring a Potato Drop, Tuesday, June 14, 5:30 a.m. The potatoes will provide more than 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 Hampton and the BOGM is helping to cover the cost of shipping. The truck will arrive in the predawn hours and the potatoes will be dumped at the old "Best" parking lot on the corner of Pine Chapel Rd. and Coliseum Dr., near the coliseum. 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 by 8 a.m. For more information about SoSA and its projects, contact Judy Bair at 1-800-333-4597.

CWS KITS

Local churches are encouraged to gather items for health kits and school kits. (Complete list of kit contents are on the Web at <www.vaumc.org>, click on "Resources," then "2005 Annual Conference Session.") The Rev. Bob Sharp is this year's coordinator of Kits for Conference. Kits may be brought to the parking lot across from the Hampton Coliseum at Pine Chapel Rd. and Coliseum Dr. (Formerly the Best Parking Lot.) Receiving station hours are: Sunday, 3-7:30 p.m.; Monday, 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, contact Sharp at 1 Church Lane, Hampton, VA 23664-2115, (757) 851-1923; <sharp1@cox.net>.

Banquets (As of April 11, 2005)

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2005

Welcome Dinner for First-time Appts.	Holiday Inn	5 p.m.
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MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2005

Board of Global Ministries	1st UMC Fox Hill	6:45 a.m.
Peace with Justice Forum	Holiday Inn	7 a.m.
Industrial and Commercial Ministries	Bethany UMC	7 a.m.
Black Methodists for Church Renewal	St. James UMC	Noon
Va. Union Alumni	Holiday Inn	Noon
Friends of Ferrum College	Holiday Inn	Noon
Board of Communications	Holiday Inn	12:30 p.m.
Clergy Spouses	Bethany UMC	12:30 p.m.
Clergy Women	Holiday Inn	12:30 p.m.
Shenandoah University	Holiday Inn	12:30 p.m.
Order of Deacons	Holiday Inn	12:30 p.m.
Board of Laity	Holiday Inn	5 p.m.
Methodist Federation for Social Action	Wesley UMC	5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2005

Minutes Committee	Holiday Inn	6 a.m.
United Methodist Men	Bethany UMC	6:30 a.m.
Religion & Race	St. Mark's UMC	7 a.m.
Family Services	Holiday Inn	7 a.m.
United Methodist Women	Chestnut Memorial UMC	7 a.m.
Assoc. of Ed. Institutions	Holiday Inn	Noon
Asbury Sem. Alumni	1st UMC, Hampton	Noon
Randolph-Macon College Society of Alum.	Holiday Inn	12:30 p.m.
Christian Educators Fellowship	Holiday Inn	12:30 p.m.
Parish Nurses	Holiday Inn	12:30 p.m.
Duke Alumni	Holiday Inn	12:30 p.m.
Local Pastors	Holiday Inn	12:30 p.m.
Russia Initiative	St. James UMC	12:30 p.m.
Union PSCE	Holiday Inn	12:30 p.m.
Emory Club	Wesley UMC	12:30 p.m.
Wesley Seminary	Holiday Inn	12:30 p.m.
Discover God's Call	Holiday Inn	12:30 p.m.
Evangelical Fellowship	Holiday Inn	5 p.m.
Retirees Banquet	Holiday Inn	5 p.m.
Fertile Earth Journal	Crabber's Restaurant	5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2005

Minutes Committee	Holiday Inn	6 a.m.
CFA	Holiday Inn	6:30 a.m.
Order of Elder Chairpersons	Holiday Inn	7 a.m.

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