

LIVING WATERS

A DISTRICT IN THE
VIRGINIA CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EMBRACE EVERYONE. EMPOWER PEOPLE. INSPIRE HEARTS. EMBODY CHRIST.

The Living Waters District eJournal



**Bishop Sue:
United Methodists can invest in the planet!**

[Click here](#)

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

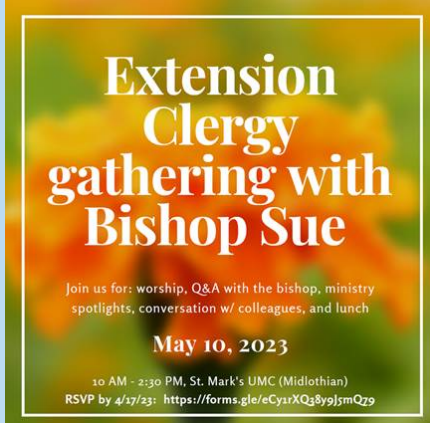
Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson and the Virginia Annual Conference Common Table are pleased to announce plans for a reorganization in the conference Connectional Ministries Office.

After faithfully serving for several years as both Director of Connectional Ministries and Assistant to the Bishop the Rev. Dr. Steven Summers will move fully into the role of Assistant to the Bishop effective July 1, 2023.

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Page will serve in the role of Director of Connectional Ministries for Innovation and Creativity and Mr. Dwayne Stinson will serve as Director of Connectional Ministries for Discipleship and Congregational Vitality. The two will share the responsibilities of Director of Connectional Ministries while they continue to lead in their respective areas of focus. This is all in an effort to ensure the annual conference can grow in its ability to equip, resource, and connect the local church.

Read full article for more information.

**Extension Clergy Gathering with
Bishop Sue: May 10, 10am-2:30pm at**



St. Mark's UMC (Midlothian).
Join for a time of worship, Q&A with our new bishop, ministry spotlights, conversation and connection with extension clergy colleagues, plenty of coffee, and a catered lunch.

Clear your calendar and get yourself there, and the rest will be taken care of. We hope this will be a relaxing and rejuvenating day of connection.

Questions, contact Deborah Lewis: deborahlewis@vaumc.org

RSVP by

4/17/23: <https://forms.gle/eCy1rXQ38y9J5mQ79>

Conference News

Updated Guide to the May 6, 2023 Annual Conference Session

April 25, 2023

Annual Conference members,

Updates and corrections were made to the May 6 Disaffiliation Reporting Guide sent out on Friday, April 21.

The updated link is available [here](#) and at the conference website at: <https://vaumc.org/ac2023may/>.

Find all updated information concerning this special Annual Conference session at the link above.

Questions concerning the logistics of the Special Annual Conference may be directed to the Rev. Dr. Steve Summers at SteveSummers@vaumc.org.



The 241st Session of the Virginia Annual Conference will be held in-person from Thursday, June 15 – Saturday, June 17, 2023, at the Berglund Center in Roanoke, Va.

The Book of Reports will be available online in early May. You can request a physical copy until April 28 to be delivered by mid-May. **Fill out this form to get a physical copy.** Limited printed copies will be available at the June AC in Roanoke for purchase.

2023 Annual Conference Videos

The Conference Lay Leader Martha Stokes and the conference Communications Office created video resources for Annual Conference members prior to the 2023 Annual Conference session. Four videos have now been released: Video 1: Welcome from Bishop Sue Video 2: Welcome and music from AC Conference co-directors and a chance to meet the band Video 3: Martha shares responsibilities for lay members and reporting back to local churches. Video 4: Conference Secretary Rev. Joshua King shares information about motions and more. **Watch videos...**

Annual Conference members may find all information at this link

[Annual Conference 2023 | VAUMC](#)

Display Area space is now available to reserve for the 2023 Annual Conference session.

Guidelines for the Display Area space are available

Reserve an area at this link by April 21: <https://na.eventscloud.com/746103>.

Book of Reports

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April 2023
LIVING WATERS
COMPASS



Living Waters District
Debbie Dowling, President

Kelly Mooney, Editor



<https://vaumc.org/blog/2023/03/29/collecting/>

The Living Waters District will again collect UMCOR kits as part of the Virginia Conference efforts in June. Start NOW making plans to collect items and assemble kits for the following three UMCOR kits

- Cleaning Kits ("Flood Buckets")
 - <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-cleaning-kit/>
 - Laundry soap, scouring pads, gloves, liquid house cleaner, ect
- Hygiene Kits
 - <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-hygiene-kit/>
 - Wash cloth, comb, nail clippers, soap, ect
- Menstrual Hygiene Kit ("Period Pack")
 - <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-menstrual-hygiene-kit/>
 - Hand sanitizer, tampons, maxipads, hand wipes, ect

We will have two collection sites for UMCOR kits:

- **Western side - Farmville UMC** (212 High Street, Farmville, VA 23901) will collect kits Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am-1:00 pm (enter off Randolph Street). **The deadline for kits is Monday, June 5th from 9:00 am-1:00 pm.** Questions? Contact Rev. Susie Thomas SusieThomas@vaumc.org or call (434) 392-4686.
- **Eastern side - Living Waters District Office**(11605 S. Crater Rd, Petersburg, VA 23805) will collect kits on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. **The deadline for kits is Monday, June 5th from 9:00 am-4:00 pm.** Questions? Contact Tish Borden TishBorden@vaumc.org or Thelma "Peanut" Watts ThelmaWatts@vaumc.org or call (804) 732-2538.

Where do we send the \$2 for transportation?

- UMCOR asks for \$1 per kit (\$3 for cleaning buckets) to cover processing and shipping and \$1 for toothpaste for each hygiene kit. **Please do NOT bring checks to the Annual Conference. All checks** (for processing and shipping, for toothpaste, and in lieu of providing kits) **should be made payable to "Virginia Conference UMC," earmarked for "kits (Advance #5041)" and mailed to Treasurer, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA, 23058** any time prior to Annual Conference and no later than August 31.

Can we contribute money instead of collecting kits?

- If you prefer to make a financial contribution to enable UMCOR to purchase relief kits, you can contribute \$75 for each cleaning kit; \$12 for each Hygiene kit; \$24 for each Menstrual Kit to Advance #5041.

President Debbie says to think how many kits your unit has made in the past and accept the challenge to increase the number of kits sent from the years prior!



Green Church Awards

We are accepting nominations for the 2023 Virginia Annual Conference Green Church Award and the Sustaining Green Church Award. Please complete the nomination applications by 14 May 2023. I've included for you the nomination application links below.

God calls us people of flourishing love, hope, and renewal. One way United Methodists participate in the restoration and transformation of this world is by caring for God's good creation. In 2009, the Virginia Annual Conference established the Green Church Initiative and called our churches to "green" their ministries. To recognize the continuing work of creation care in the

Virginia Annual Conference, we are asking for nominations to receive the Green Church and Sustaining Green Church Award during the Virginia Annual Conference during June 15-17, 2023 session.

We seek to recognize new awards recipients with the Green Church Award and previous recipients with the Sustaining Green Church Award; both recipients strive to affirm the importance of healing and defending God's creation in their mission as local congregations. They are engaged in this ministry in the following ways:

1. Worship; 2. Learning and teaching; 3. Individual and congregational lifestyle; and 4. Community, national, and global advocacy/involvement.

Please complete the nomination applications below by 14 May 2023 and send any questions to Brian Christoffersen at redceltic2010@gmail.com

VAUMC Board of Church and Society Green Church Award

Application <https://forms.gle/F3LeDYwRr529TwQy5>

VAUMC Board of Church and Society Sustaining Green Church Award

Application <https://forms.gle/9HkB56u4JXPY8zZcA>

Thank you, Brian Christoffersen, Chair Caretakers of God's Creation, and the Rev. James Page, Chair VAUMC Board of Church and Society.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the Annual Conference in-person at the Berglund Center, Roanoke in June. Assistance before, during and after (from June 13-17) is needed. Please prayerfully consider volunteering.

Volunteers will be contacted by their area coordinator and receive any necessary training or instructions.

Here are the links to the Sign Up Genius pages:

Hospitality Greeters: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0848ABAF2CA0FC1-ac2023>

Platform: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0848ABAF2CA0FC1-ac20231>

Registration: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0848ABAF2CA0FC1-ac20232>

Ushers: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0848ABAF2CA0FC1-ac20233>

If you need assistance signing up, please contact Donna Desper at DonnaDesper@vaumc.org.



2023
Mission

Opportunities on conference website

Mission Opportunities provided throughout the Annual Conference allow the churches to maximize the impact in transforming the world through the connectional system. Each year, Virginia Conference offers Mission Opportunities for the over 1,000 churches to 'Unite in Mission' as we serve our Lord together. Below you will find information on how we, serving together, can become a 'blessing to this world' (Gen 12:3).

[Learn More](#)

Announcements

DON'T FORGET

Annual Clergy Evaluations and Parsonage Inspections are due June 1st!

Email documents to ThelmaWatts@vaumc.org

You may access the forms at this link: [Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee Resources | VAUMC](#) If you have any questions, contact TishBorden@vaumc.org or call (804) 732-2538.



Have you heard what is happening at **Journey Community Center**?

[Follow their story!](#)



We are sending you a very special invitation. There is an opportunity this summer (July 7-16) for you to join a once in a lifetime mission to Liberia, West Africa. On the campus of My Heart's Appeal, we will lay out a 2-acre plot for vegetables –The Liberty Garden.

Liberia imports 80% of its food at prices rising to 35% per year. The

government has declared a “food scarcity.” As many as 720,000 people go hungry every week. The garden project will bring the community and our school together in a common cause to plant and to harvest fresh vegetables and fruits will become affordable and our students will be trained in basic gardening skills.

My Heart’s Appeal is the only school offering education and training for those with intellectual disabilities in West Africa.

As part of a Virginia UMC Volunteer in Mission team of 10, you will experience a once in a lifetime opportunity to make such a huge difference in the lives of so many.

If you are curious or interested, email our Team Leader, Arthur Richardson , for an application. (arthur@dcwebgroup.com) Or call the co-leader, Rev. Tim Craft (540) 989-3673

UMVIM Virginia Teams: photo request

Mission team photos needed for Annual Conference!

If your church or district has fielded a mission team, we want your digital pictures! We are looking for variety: regional, national, international, construction, medical mission, Christian ministry, cultural and community engagement - teams of all sizes and purposes are urged to participate.

To be responsive, please observe the following:

- Send ONLY up to 6 pictures per team.
- Choose the best and *most representative pictures of your work and the community served.*
- Please send no more than one group photo of your team. One.
 - Include the name of the team leader.
 - List the church (or churches) that participated.
- Include name and location of the community you served.

Here are some prompts for pictures:

- Did you worship in the community you served?
- Did you share a meal or activity with your host community/family?
- Is there a last day or final photo of a construction site or VBS class?
- If you served a variety of patients, projects or clients, is that visible in what you share?

Send your photo responses to Terri Morgan at tlynmorgan@icloud.com ***and see them displayed for others to see at Annual Conference!***

Youth Events



HIGHLAND SUPPORT PROJECT
WITH
THE PACE CENTER AT VCU

Young Adult Trip
Santa Catarina, Guatemala

- Stove Building
- Maya Arts Program-
working with indigenous
schools
- Coffee Coop Tour
- Fellowship with young
adults outside your
congregation

\$1300 not including airfare

**June 24-July 1
2023**

Email hello@highlandpartners.org
to sign up!

HIGHLAND SUPPORT PROJECT

A Richmond based Advance Special of the UMC. We have partnered with indigenous communities for over 30 years to facilitate cross cultural exchange and transformational development alongside the Pace Center at VCU. We are putting together a young adult mission trip for high school and college students in Virginia to Guatemala this summer. The cost of the trip is \$1,300, not including airfare. For additional information, contact Rebecca Andrews.

Rebecca Andrews
Highland Support Project
(804) 796-0689
highlandsupportproject.org
rebecca@highlandsupportproject.org

Applications for Convergence 2023 are open! Randolph-Macon College's summer Youth Theology Institute on Faith and Science will be held July 18-23 this year. The event is open to students who are finishing their 9th, 10th, or 11th grade year in the next few months.

The '23 Convergence theme is Food, Faith and Farming. We have a lot of exciting activities and experiences planned including:

- Field trips to Sophia Farm, Fitrah Farm, Shalom Farm and Babylon MicroFarm
- A special project with the Ashland Farmer's market
- The Theology of Soul Food, a speech and cooking demonstration with author, James Beard award winner, and certified barbeque judge Adrian Miller
- Workshops on campus
- Planning and helping to lead worship at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church on the R-MC campus.

Cost to attend is \$350. Financial Assistance is available if needed. All Convergence campers receive a \$1,000 scholarship if they attend R-MC for college. You can find more information as well as the link to apply

at: <https://convergence.rmc.edu/>. Questions? Email kendragrimes@rmc.edu.



Go ahead and mark your calendars to come mentor with us next summer at All God's Children Camp. Below are the dates. Please email Lori Smith at agcc@vaumc.org for more information.

Camp Chanco-June 18-23
Camp OOTB-August 6-11
Camp Chanco August 13-18

Lori Smith, Coordinator
All God's Children Camp
P.O. Box 8506
Glen Allen, VA 23058

Mentors needed for summer camps

All God's Children Camp is looking for mentors this summer. There are three opportunities to serve: June 18-23, August 6-11, and August 13-18. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve locally. Also, this is a great mission trip for youth groups and other small groups and it's free. Please contact Camp Coordinator **Lori Smith** for more information. A ministry of the Virginia Annual Conference, All God's Children Camp is a weeklong overnight camp for children ages 7 to 12, with an incarcerated parent. Campers have an opportunity to participate in all the physical activities the camp has to offer such as boating, swimming, hiking, archery, music, crafts, and Bible study, along with a conflict resolution/self-esteem-building class. **Learn more...**

For more information, check the website at www.vaumc.org/agcc/ or contact Lori Smith agcc@vaumc.org



The Virginia Conference supports 13 campus ministries at colleges and universities across the Commonwealth, and additionally, four United Methodist colleges and universities. Our campus ministers provide opportunities for students to worship, to study, to serve, and to grow as leaders. You can find information for each campus here: <https://vaumc.org/newstudents/>

To help our campus ministers connect with your students, please complete the following form as soon as you know where students will attend: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOEIHxpnZmSHmEj9bZs8uLNX9lvQI36buJN U5LeOHY4WEFTA/viewform>

If you prefer to email a spreadsheet that includes an entire list of students, their contact information, and the college or university they will attend, please email it to learning@vaumc.org.

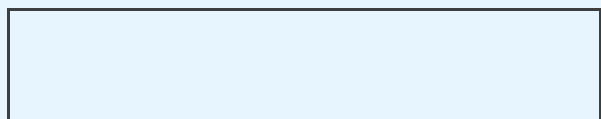
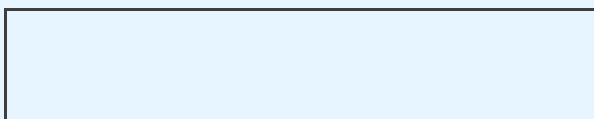
For clergy, completing this form fulfills the requirement of ¶232 of the *Book of Discipline* that you must notify the chair of the conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (that paragraph also requires notifying the district superintendent and the charge conference, which this form does not accomplish). This form also fulfills ¶256.3d, which requires local church youth coordinators to provide student information to the chaplains and campus ministers.



Lake Junaluska to hold three women retreats in 2023

Lake Junaluska will host three Journey to Joy Women's Retreats in 2023, bringing women together for meaningful weekends of laughter, sharing, worship and fellowship. [Learn more...](#)

Offered in partnership with Leigh Young, author of "Journey to Joy: A Seven-Week Path to the Joyous Life God Intended" and "Lessons from the Letters," the retreats will be held Aug. 25-27, and Nov. 10-12. Lake Junaluska in North Carolina is a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind and body. All are welcome at the beloved retreat center nestled in the mountains of Western North Carolina. The 1,200-acre property is perfect for personal getaways, family vacations, conferences, retreats, weddings and reunions.





Join us for the Festival of Wisdom & Grace
Aug. 21-24, 2023
 Worship | Learning | Workshops | Recreation | Fellowship
 Come to beautiful Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center for the Festival of Wisdom and Grace.

Through worship, workshops and teaching, gain insight about Jesus' experiences as we explore the 2023 theme, "Strong Roots, Bright Future: Our Jewish Roots."

Plus, renew your spirit and make new friends as we pray at the Cross, enjoy lake devotional walks, and discuss topics from leaving a legacy to sharing our stories.

Rev. Dr. Bob Rambo
Conference Preacher

Ellen F. Davis
Keynote Speaker

Marty Goetz
In Concert

Workshops
 Messianic Prophecies
 "Bless The Lord, O My Soul"
 The 5th Gospel: The Geography Of Israel
 Jewish Grief Traditions
 Remembering Your Story - Sharing Your Legacy
 Generous Living - Time, Talent, And Treasure
 Finishing Well

REGISTER TODAY | lakejunaluska.com/wisdom | 800-222-4930

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

To download the latest Compass newsletter please visit:
[Click Here](#)

UNITED METHODIST MEN UNITED METHODIST MEN/VAUMC BEACON NEWSLETTERS & NOTICES/VAUMC



Wood's Men Christian Fellowship
 The men's group at Wood's Methodist Church organized as a group with monthly breakfast meetings in the early 1970's. Our mission statement is:
 "To continue a fellowship of men to enable and enhance Christian growth, encouragement, fellowship and participation in the church and God's ministry in our communities and the World."

Membership has fluctuated through the years with meeting attendance of 10 to 25 men. Covid restrictions cancelled our gatherings for a couple of years but with God's touch our group has reunited in pursuit of his work and will.

The group has monthly breakfast meetings with spiritual devotions led by group members as well as guest speakers outside of our church. Annual support of charitable organizations such as a local food group, Chasm, veterans groups and the blind are forefront of the men's group mission efforts. We especially look forward to our special annual men's sponsored



events - Church/Community Pancake and Sausage Dinner fellowship on the first Sunday in Lent and our Christmas, Valentines and Mother's Day themed church wide breakfast during the year.



Prayer Requests

The Family of Rev. Otis H. Worley (Retired Pastor)

The Family of James Livingston Utz, husband of Rev. Vivian Lutz

The Family of Larry Trent (Terri Rosser's Father)

The Family of Edith K. Clayton (Mother of Rev. Shaun Smith)

Churches and Pastors in transition

Please send your prayer requests to terrirosser@vaumc.org



NewsLetter DEADLINE

May 23rd, 2023

Email: TerriRosser@vaumc.org

Living Waters District UMC | TishBorden@vaumc.org | 804.732.2538
Area Bishop: Rev. Sue Hauptert-Johnson
District Superintendent: Rev. Jay Carey
Director of Church Vision & Vitality: Rev. Tim Beck
Administrative Assistant: Leticia Borden
Office Support: Phyllis Goin & Thelma Watts
Communications Coordinator: Terri Rosser
Lay Leaders: Keith Jordan, Geraldine Sanderson
Treasurers: Kay Mims, Jennifer Honeycutt

Living Waters District UMC | P O Box 3413, 11605 S Crater Rd, Petersburg, VA 23805

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Sent by terrirosser@vaumc.org in collaboration



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