

Purpose

We are: A community of women whose purpose is to know God and 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.

Mission

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

Vision

Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

# The Link



February 2025

## President—Karen McElfish



Happy New Year! Happy start of all the wonderful activities that fill our year together as United Women in Faith! I am excited to start my term as your Conference United Women in Faith President. I know many of you from time shared at UWFaith events and am confident I will have opportunities to meet more of you at upcoming events. But I thought I would take a moment to introduce myself, share my UWFaith story.

Like so many of us, I joined United Methodist Women at the invitation from a friend. I had two young daughters, a busy professional life as a pediatrician, and not a lot of time to give. My circle understood, as many of us were in similar positions. We shared our stories, volunteered when we could, and grew together in friendship, and that same circle still meets now almost 30 years later.

Somewhere along the line a woman from my circle put my name forward to the district team as a potential new leader, taking on the role of social action coordinator. Four years later I took on the role of District President. In the intervening years I have held the positions of Conference Vice President for four years, Social Action Coordinator for two years, and most recently member of the Program Advisory Group for four years. I am honored to now serve as your President.

I love being part of United Women in Faith! I have met so many wonderful women, developed deep and lasting friendships, and shared lots of laughs and a few tears. What an amazing group of people, with so many

gifts and talents to share, so much to learn from one another, so many ways to support one another and grow in our discipleship. Through our many opportunities for education, we grow in our ability to help transform the world. And we eagerly roll up our sleeves for mission work! What an excellent group to be a part of!

I look forward to the opportunities we will have this year to serve God and neighbor together. Some of you will have attended the recent United Methodist Day at General Assembly. Good to see you there!

We also have the upcoming [Charter for Racial Justice event](#) hosted by the Three Notch'd District on **February 15** from 9:00 -11:30AM via Zoom. See the information flyer about registration.

Additionally, we have the opportunity to participate in the [VAUMC Conference Climate Summit](#) on **March 8** at Randolph Macon College. One of our social justice priorities is our Just Energy for All campaign. Let's be a part of the important conversations about how our conference will respond to the environmental issues before us. Plan to register and attend!

What a year full of wonderful events we have before us! See you there!

Karen McElfish

## Vice President—Julia Meade (J.M.) Gallier



Mark your  
calendars NOW  
for the program  
events being  
planned by the  
Virginia United  
Women in Faith

Hello VA UWFaith Sisters,

I'd like to take this first newsletter as an opportunity to say "Hello" and introduce myself to you. I am a child of God, mom, grandmother, sister, aunt, great-aunt, and a person blessed with many, many friends. I am looking forward to opportunities this year to connect with those of you I not only had the pleasure of meeting before but also with many new Sisters across the VA Conference United Women in Faith.

When you receive this newsletter, many of you will have participated in the first program of the [2025 Program Book \*Carrying Our Faith Forward\*](#), either in your local unit or via the January 9<sup>th</sup> Zoom hosted by the National Office. The thoughts on our intergenerational relationships were stimulating. It was great to have the authors, Nora Asedillo Cunningham and Faye Wilson, be part of the January 9<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting. If you are subscriber to the digital version of the 2025 program book, you will continue to receive monthly invitations to National Office sponsored community gatherings of the 2025 Program Book.

Speaking of opportunities to reconnect and connect, I want everyone to mark your calendars NOW for the program events being planned by the VA UWFaith, several of which will be *IN PERSON*. I know from personal experience how quickly one's calendar can fill up with commitments, so I hope you all will mark all these events on your 2025 calendar now so that you will have every opportunity to participate in all of the events.

- The first in person event will be the **Spiritual Life Retreat May 2-4, 2025**, at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center. Frances Ellis, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, is leading the planning for this event. Look for further information in her article in this newsletter and as the event approaches.
- On **June 7, 2025**, we will participate in our gathering before the VA Annual Conference. Melissa White, Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator, is leading the planning for this Zoom event. So please block out time during the morning of June 7<sup>th</sup> and look for more details from Melissa on this event.
- Following Annual Conference, we look to July and the 2025 Mission u event and its theme *Practicing Hope*. This in person event will be held **July 25-27, 2025**, in the greater Richmond area. Maria Ward and Doris Douglass are doing a great job of leading the team in putting this event together.
- Melissa White will also lead the planning for the in person Young Women's Retreat at Camp Overlook, Keezletown, **September 19-20, 2025**. Follow Melissa for more details for this event.
- Last but not least, the VA UWFaith Annual Meeting on **October 25, 2025**, will also be an in person event. Details on the place and keynote speaker are being developed. The Annual meeting is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the mission work accomplished across the VA UWFaith community since the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Every effort is being made to make sure the in person events are financially feasible. There are scholarships available at the Conference level for first time attendees to events. [Dian McNaught](#), VA UWFaith Treasurer, has all the information to answer questions about available scholarships. Please encourage new attendees to take advantage of these scholarships.

If you have any questions about the information in this article, or anything else, please let me know. If I don't know the answer, I'll tell you I don't know and then try to help you find the answer.

That's all I have for this article. I hope each of you stays warm and safe. I look forward to seeing you at these and other events happening around the VA Conference.

Blessings,

Julia Meade (J.M.) Gallier

[Jmcg5580@gmail.com](mailto:Jmcg5580@gmail.com) 540-273-8934

# Spiritual Growth —Frances Ellis



## What is a Soul Care Retreat?

A Soul Care Retreat is an event where women come together to experience rest, rejuvenation, and spiritual nourishment. A time to rest, renew, refresh, be open to God. A time of self-care and spiritual rejuvenation. A time for learning who you are. A time for introspection and rest. A time that gives you permission to care for yourself. Soul Care ministers to the whole person – mind, body, and soul. You cannot be Everything to Everybody without taking time to care for yourself.

Being good stewards of our humanity is important to God. So, it should be important to us as well. Our souls speak softly. They whisper and do not demand. They do not often speak up for themselves so we must listen for their gentle cues. Souls without breathing space suffer. Without breathing space, we risk wounding others. The one soul-filling activity most of us need more than any other is spending time with God. Sound wonderful?

You do not need to be a United Methodist to attend these women’s events.

## Spiritual Life Soul Care Retreat May 2-4

Our Spiritual Life Soul Care Retreat will be held May 2-4 at Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Harrisonburg. The price for the weekend is **\$195**, with an early-bird registration discount of \$20, if you register by March 18.

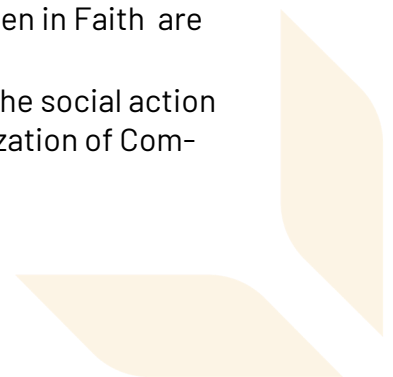
We also have SCHOLARSHIPS available for first-time attendees to a conference event, so we hope that you will attend and bring a friend or family member. Keep in mind, you do not need to be a United Methodist to attend these women’s events. So please save the date and spread the word!

Let me know if you have any questions. Registration coming soon, [click here for flyer](#).

Your conference Mission Team is working to make a very meaningful and joyful time away.

- We have a wonderful retreat leader – **Rev. Dr. Joanna Dietz**;
- We have time built in for you to participate in fun activities of your choosing;
- There will be the opportunity to remind yourself about who United Women in Faith are and what we accomplish for women, children, and youth;
- To review the books in the reading program and gain knowledge about the social action priorities – Just Energy 4 All and Ending Mass Incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color.

Frances Ellis  
Spiritual Growth Coordinator  
[vauwfsg@gmail.com](mailto:vauwfsg@gmail.com)



# Membership, Nurture and Outreach—

## Melissa White



### Unit Survey for 2023 due March 31, 2025

The Unit Survey is to be completed by the Unit President or her designee on line and will be open until March 31, 2025. District Membership, Nurture and Outreach representatives (or designee) are responsible for contacting each unit on their district with this information. The Conference Mission Team appreciates your participation in this Survey. Please share this information with each Unit President!

To see the questions before you fill in the survey itself, download the [sample survey](#).

- When you are done, click the Submit button.

Thank you in advance for participating in these responses for national—they will use them to :

- Deliver more resources in areas that matter!
- Gather engagement data by Regions (Jurisdictions).
- Celebrate the work our units are doing for Women, Children, and Youth!

#### Steps to access the Unit Survey:

- Go to <https://uwfaith.org/login/> and click on **Member Login**.



#### Questions?

Check with your District President or Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator.

Conference Membership, Nurture and Outreach officers:

- Melissa White beginning January 1, 2025

#### Quick Links

- Staff Contacts
- Reading Program
- Program Resources
- Prayer Guide
- International Scholarship 2025
- Mission Maps
- Campaigns
- Officer Resource Page
- Inspire, Influence, Impact
- Where the Money Goes

STORIES OF SISTERHOOD

UNIT SURVEY

- If you have not already done so, click "Create an account" located below the log in button to access **Quick Links**.
- Under Quick Links, click on [UNIT SURVEY](#).



- When you have gathered the information and are ready to fill in the survey, click on **SOUTHEASTERN**.



- Scroll down to click on **VIRGINIA!** You are ready to complete the survey.

## Committee on Nominations Chair— Mary Jane Rawley



Happy New Year! As the new Chair for the Committee on Nominations, I would like to introduce myself to everyone. My name is Mary Jane Rawley and I am one of the Past Presidents of United Women in Faith serving as Conference President for 2017-2020. I live in the Bridgewater (near Harrisonburg) area of Virginia.

The CON members working with me are Donna Turley, Mary Wright, Pam Lake, Rosa Lewis, Kim Miller, and Nancy Walsh.

Some of CON work consists of identifying prospective leaders for UWF in the Virginia Conference. Our eyes and ears are always open as we attend our Conference events. We are happy to have a full slate of officers for 2025 and I want to give a shout out to Debbie McDaniels, the outgoing CON Chair, for leading that work.

The CON has spent a lot of time the last year working on job descriptions. We plan to finish that early this year.

Have a great year,  
Mary Jane Rawley, Chair  
Committee on Nominations



## Program Resources—Cheryl Johnson

United Women in Faith's Reading Program is designed to help women of

faith achieve five key goals: lean into our spiritual growth, strengthen our leadership skills, equip ourselves for local and global mission, take faithful action for the common good, and build community in ways large and small. Participating in one of the Reading Program plans at any of the four levels, or even reading just one or two books in the catalog, can help you grow. And anyone, anywhere, can participate – whether you are a member of United Women in Faith already or just getting to know us.

You can also find a Reading Program Enthusiasts Group on our United Women in Faith Digital platform. Here you can connect with others and chat about what you're reading and more. You will also be invited to special Reading Program events like author talks and book discussions.

While on uwfaith.org, be sure to check out [Faith Talks, response Podcast, and Voices from the field](#). Check under the calendar of events you'll be able to pick your interests.

[Bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith](https://www.bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith), Kindle, Ebooks, and several independent apps are available if you wish to download books to your device. Double check the app

before downloading, making sure the books on the Reading Program are available. These sites may also offer audiobook versions to purchase, this option would allow you to share with your group.



NEWS FLASH - NICKEL BOYS now showing in theaters. Book is on our reading program Social Action 2024!!

More 2025 books will be ordered soon and as a reminder, please utilize the [Lending Library](#) in order for us to keep offering this valuable service to you.

Happy New Year, Happy Reading,  
Happy for your faithfulness,

Cheryl Johnson  
[Resource Coordinator](#)





## Education and Interpretation— Angela Sokolowski

Hello beautiful friends! It is my extreme pleasure and honor to be able to write to you as your Missions Education & Interpretation Coordinator for the Virginia Conference of the United Women in Faith. I've spent many years as a member, local officer and district officer and I am so excited to help you in this new role. I am looking forward to catching up with old friends and meeting new ones as we discuss, explore and engage in the missions God has placed before us.

This year at **Mission u (July 25th – 27th)** we will be talking about Practicing Hope Together. I'd like to personally invite each and every one of you to join us for this amazing weekend. Together we will cultivate

- HOPE that is honest (refugia)
- HOPE that is restorative (rest)
- HOPE that is possible (repair).

Navigating through the world today can be extremely challenging but together we have hope and the ability to overcome because we know how the story ends - thank you Jesus! Mark your calendars and I will see you at Mission u in July!

In addition to marking your calendar for Mission u in July I'd like to also ask each of you to focus on praying for our Virginia Annual Conference Deaconess and Home Missioners.

**Harrisonburg** Olma Olay-May (\*email not provided)

**Portsmouth** Laarni S. Bibay [lsbibay@gmail.com](mailto:lsbibay@gmail.com)

**Roanoke** Amanda Howe-Kelley [amandarenaehowe@gmail.com](mailto:amandarenaehowe@gmail.com)

**Staunton** Amy Purdom [purdoms4@gmail.com](mailto:purdoms4@gmail.com)

**Virginia Beach** Emma Samson [emmasamson@vaumc.org](mailto:emmasamson@vaumc.org)

**Virginia Beach** Imelda De Los Santos [jeimel2911@gmail.com](mailto:jeimel2911@gmail.com)

**Woodbridge** Carla Blackmon [cablackmon@gmail.com](mailto:cablackmon@gmail.com)

These laypeople have been consecrated through the United Women in Faith by the United Methodist Church to the Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner. They embody the church in the world through a full-time vocation of servant ministries of love justice and service. I have included their email addresses as printed in the daily prayer guide 2025. If you feel called beyond prayer, please reach out to these amazing individuals: connect, build relationships, and see how together you can practice Hope in our communities.

I'll leave you with this prayer in your mind and on your heart:

*God of heaven, we give all honor and glory to You for the missions that You have placed before us. We ask that our eyes may be opened, our hearts be filled with love and our heads be filled with hope. Amen.*

Angela Sokolowski

Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation

Virginia Conference United Women in Faith

[sokolowski.angela@gmail.com](mailto:sokolowski.angela@gmail.com)

## Social Action—Phyllis Geoghegan



### Social Action: Advocates

**Advocate:** as a noun, an advocate is a person who represents another person's interest

**Advocate:** as a verb is to add a voice of support to a cause or person

**Biblical definition:** one who pleads another's cause, who helps another by defending or comforting him/her

**Christ gives this name three times to the Holy Spirit** (John 14:16, 15:26, 16:7), the Greek word, parakletos or paraclete here means "Comforter" or more literally "the one who is beside us".

**When advocating for others:** be a good listener, be supportive, have all the information and be a good representative.

**An Advocate** should be actively fighting for justice when any injustice occurs, making changes to the unjust issues and/or systems.

**In a recent Faith Talks (Jan. 2)** Mama Iva Carruthers said, "We are our sisters' and brothers' keepers". Rev. Dr. Susan Smith said, "Never stop resisting! Resist or lose rights!" Her book is **With Liberty and Justice for Some**.

**During our Leadership Training Days (Nov. 21-23)** Brittany K. Barnett shared her story of working with women and families related to unjust systems. Her book **A Knock at Midnight (Leadership Development 2023 UWF Reading Program)** explains what it takes to bring hope and justice to people trapped in a system.

**Advocating in the next Quadrennium, pages 40-43, our January-February response** emphasizes our United Women in Faith's priorities for 2025-2028: **Mass Incarceration and Climate Justice**. There are websites given to keep us connected, informed and engaged in this work. Relating to Climate Justice, **Robin Wall Kimmerer's book Braiding Sweetgrass (Spiritual Growth, 2024 UWF Reading Program)** shares her Indigenous wisdom in advocating for the care of our Earth.

**Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence". This is the most important, the first on the list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself'. (The Message, Matthew 22:37...)**

Blessings and Thanksgiving,  
Phyllis Geoghegan  
Social Action Coordinator

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)**  
**Three Notch'd District**  
**Virginia Conference United Methodist Church (VAUMC)**



### **RACIAL INEQUALITY IN IMMIGRATION LAW**

**February 15, 2025**

**9:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Via Zoom**

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

## Treasurer—Dian McNaught



March 23 is  
Day of Giving

I have never been so proud to be a member of the United Women in Faith as I was at the last grant application acceptance meeting.

We had a record number of grants to review from local and international missions, including one to a group of amazing women in Ukraine. In a recent UWF 'Still In Mission' episode, Ukrainian Methodist Reverend Yulia Stardubets spoke on the difficulties her church faces in a country at war.

I will outline the grants that were accepted and encourage all to consider the two grants that are opening March 1st.

With the opening on October 1st, we received an application from an interpreter at our last Mission Encounter (now Mission u, yes with a small 'u'). A minister from the West Congo Annual Conference, **Cesar Lodiha Akoka**, applied for tuition assistance for his General Chaplaincy Program Master's in CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) at Wesley Theological Seminary in DC while his wife, **Clarice Ndaya Kadima**, and 4 year old son, **Ferdinad Akoka Lodiha**, are in Zimbabwe.

Clarice requested assistance with her annual tuition as she is working on her Master's in nursing at Africa University and was awarded \$2,690 from the Katherine Kyle fund against her \$3,550 annual tuition. We also awarded their son \$1,440 for the first three trimesters of his pre-school since education for children in most countries is not free.

We were able to assist two missions in India and one in Bangladesh. **The Reach All Nations Community Development** proposal for India was among the programs requested for creating Children's Tutoring Centers in Tribal Communities to address critical needs for education, healthcare, and nutrition for a year for each of the 16 centers that are needed that support 25-30 tribal children each. We granted \$1,660 for support for one of these centers.

**The Visionary Network for Missionary Children's Development Program** assists children of missionaries, who live and serve in remote rural areas of India, with food and education. There are 48 of these missionary children, from ages 2 to 13, throughout India and we supplied

them with \$50 per child for food, books, exam fees and other educational materials for the next year coming to \$2,450.

Another exciting mission is the **Prime Evangelistic Church (PEC) Children's Safe Home in Bangladesh**. Bangladesh is a Muslim-dominant country with Christianity being only 3% of the population. The PEC has established 38 churches and 2,600 former Muslims have been baptized. Their school age children are isolated and stigmatized since their parents have become Christians, hence the need for the safe house for these kids to receive support including a formal education, not otherwise available to them. This safe house for children costs \$2,500 a month and we donated \$2,000 towards this cause.

There was a request from the **Mission Central Children's Clothes Closet** in the Shenandoah River District. Their request for \$5,000 will cover the costs of clothes, diapers, formula and other baby supplies for the 591 families they serve including 1,369 individual children. In 2024, they distributed 88,152 diapers up from 2023.

Another grant for \$4,000 from Fort Hill UMC's UWF unit with half going for hands-on educational materials in reading and math supporting the 364 students of the recently accredited **Perrymont Elementary School**. The second half will go towards continued support to **missionaries Rev J and T Park in Southeast Asia** for educational materials for underprivileged children for a summer English program as well as VBS and Sunday School materials, targeting poor communities in collaboration with the network of UM churches.

We also supported **Vulnerable Children's Food Needs** in a school in **Rwanda, Africa** for 105 children to receive a cup of porridge twice daily and nutritious meals such as rice, beans and bananas over the next six months, directly impacting their lives and showing God's love.



Last, but not least, was a grant for \$7,600 to a group of ladies in **Ukraine** who, from their own pockets, founded **"VALUES"**, the first public cultural-educational psychological recover center in Kyiv, for those whose lives have been shattered by war; mothers whose children have gone missing; mothers and wives whose loved ones are in captivity or have been maimed and/or killed in battle; thousands of orphaned children who have lost their parents as well as so many displaced persons, mostly women and children, living in countries not their own.

This core of women volunteers support this 3,000 sq foot center out of their own pockets, pay for the utilities and internet as well as bake bread daily so everyone who enters their doors receives a small loaf of bread and hot tea. This is the only center in Ukraine operating in such a format let alone created and run by women.

Because Ukraine's energy infrastructure has been destroyed, they were in desperate need for an inverter (generator) and heavy duty batteries to keep the center operational during the long harsh winter months. The cost was far beyond their means.

Since they are located near four universities and five schools, students come to the center to have a warm, quiet space for internet access to continue their studies. Over the last year, they organized and held 314 events for those that use the center daily.

They have promised that at every event held at "VALUES", they will specifically emphasize the support of the **Virginia Conference United Women in Faith** and will also organize media articles highlighting our assistance in sustaining their center during the these harsh winter months as a token of their gratitude for our unwavering support for the Ukrainian people who aspire to a peaceful future for their children and elderly parents.

The women at "VALUES" recently sent back to us via a local Nelson County humanitarian/professional photographer, Glenn Tupper, who visits Ukraine several times a year, and arranged for our funds to get to them personally.

He returned from his last trip with a framed plaque from "VALUES" that reads:

From our hearts the great thank you

**United Women of Faith of the Virginia United Methodist Church, Virginia Conference**  
**for your support to volunteering cultural center "Values" that had created by Women of Ukrainian organization "For Family Values".**

In our days Kyiv stands without light and warmth during for 6-8 hours every day.

Our center is a home for everyone who needs to feel "You are not alone".

Thousands of children, widows, pensioners and veterans will have light and warmth with your help!

For us in the Advent season your help is a true miracle and a manifestation of the Lord's love and support for the things we do every day as volunteers.

From this day on, our home is your home! Our daily prayer will include gratitude to you and your families. Everyone who comes to our "VALUES" center will know about your help.

We dream that one day we will meet you in peaceful Kyiv and be able to thank you for the good that you have done for us and Ukrainians!

With all grants that we have given out this year, I have requested follow ups and pictures to reinforce the good that we do around the world as well as here at home. Ladies, we have amazing stories about all that we do, we just need to tell them. Maybe we can't all go into the mission field, but we work very hard to support those who are in the mission fields at home and abroad.

I also want to emphasize the importance of **ENDOWMENTS**. We could not have achieved this level of UWF Virginia Conference giving, if it were not for those in our past who so believed in the organization, that they set up these endowments for good. PLEASE CONTACT EITHER KAREN McELFISH OR MYSELF, IF YOU NEED INFORMATION FOR SUCH.



By uniting our hearts and hands, we are building a future filled with hope and support for women, children, and youth. Every gift you make, regardless of size, will make an impact for generations to come.

Give to The Legacy Endowment Fund on the Day of Giving, March 23!

[uwfaith.org/dayofgiving](http://uwfaith.org/dayofgiving)

## Spiritual Life Retreat—Frances Ellis

A time of worship, rest, and renewal

We have the date: **May 2-4, 2025**

We have the place: **Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, VA**

We have the retreat leader: **Joanna Dietz**

Now all we need is YOU, plus a friend or family member.

Cost for the weekend: \$195 per person.

Early bird cost by March 18: \$175.

SCHOLARSHIPS available for 1st-time attendees to a conference event!

Mark Your Calendar - Registration coming soon, [click here for flyer](#).



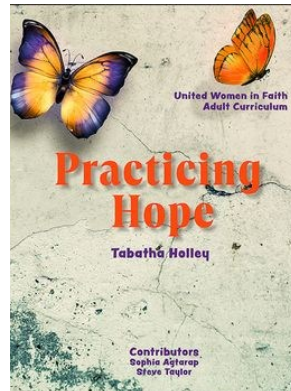
A scholarship to a VAUWF Conference event may be available through your District President

## Mission u—Save the Date— [vauwf.org/missionu](http://vauwf.org/missionu)

Interested in deepening your faith in community? Gaining experience interpreting Scripture? Working toward healing for yourself, your community, and all of creation? Mission u is for you!

In 2025, our theme is *Practicing Hope Together*.

Buy the 2025 book: <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11781&catid=2175>



**July 25-27, 2025**

Location:

**Good Shepherd UMC**

9155 Hungary Rd  
Henrico, VA 23294  
and

**VA United Methodist Center**

10330 Staples Mill Rd  
Glen Allen, VA 23060

## Young Women’s Retreat—Save the Date—Melissa White

**Sept 19-20, 2025**  
at  
**Camp Overlook,**  
**Keezletown**



# Virginia Conference United Women in Faith

## 2025 Conference Calendar

- Jan 4, 2025 ..... Mission Team Planning Mtg\* (Zoom)  
Jan 30, 2025 ..... [UM Day at General Assembly \(Richmond\)](#)
- Feb 15, 2025.....Charter for Racial Justice Meeting: [RACIAL INEQUALITY IN IMMIGRATION LAW presented by Just Neighbors](#) (Zoom, 9-11:30 AM via Three Notch'd District)
- March 9, 2025 ..... Mission Team Mtg\* (Zoom) 3PM  
March 14, 2025 ..... Mission Team Mtg\* (Zoom) 7PM  
March 15, 2025 ..... Ex Com Mtg\*\* (Zoom)
- May 2-4, 2025 .....[Spiritual Life Retreat](#) (Massanetta Springs Conf Center)
- June 7, 2025 ..... Pre-Conference Gathering: M,N,&O (Zoom)  
June 12 - 14, 2025 ..... Virginia Annual Conference (Roanoke)  
July 12, 2025 ..... Mission Team Mtg\* (Zoom)  
July 25-27, 2025 ..... [Mission u](#) (Glen Allen Conf Center)  
Sept 19-20, 2025 .....[Young Women's Retreat](#) (Camp Overlook, Keezletown)  
Sept 27, 2025 ..... Budget Mtg (Zoom)  
Oct 18, 2025 ..... Mission Team Mtg\* (Zoom)  
Oct 24, 2025 ..... Ex Com Mtg\*\* (TBD)  
Oct 25, 2025 ..... **Annual Meeting** (TBD)

\*=VA Conf. Mission Team

\*\*=Conf. Executive Committee (includes Mission Team, District Presidents, Conference Committee Chairwomen, Committee on Nominations and Appointed Members)

### [VAUMC Climate Summit](#)

March 8, 9:30-4:00  
Ashland, VA

### [UW Faith Day of Giving](#)

March 23

faith

action

sisterhood

[umwlink@gmail.com](mailto:umwlink@gmail.com)

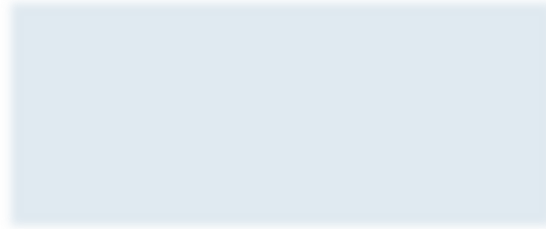
[www.vauwf.org](http://www.vauwf.org)

## Virginia Conference United Women in Faith

Benn's UMC

14571 Benn's Church Blvd.

Smithfield, VA 23430



[vauwf.org](http://vauwf.org)

### Inside this issue:

President, Purpose, Mission, Vision	1
Vice President	2
Spiritual Growth, Spiritual Life Soul Care Retreat	3
Membership, Nurture and Outreach, Unit Survey	4
Committee on Nominations, Program Resources	5
Education and Interpretation	6
Social Action, Charter for Racial Justice	7
Treasurer, Grants Awarded, Day of Giving	8-9
Save the Dates: Spiritual Life Soul Care Retreat, Mission u, Young Women's Retreat	10
Conference Calendar	11



United  
Women  
in Faith

Virginia