

Virginia Conference  
United Methodist Church



**VALLEY RIDGE**  
**DISTRICT CONFERENCE**  
**NOVEMBER 13, 2022**  
**BOOK OF REPORTS**

**Celebration of the Valley Ridge District  
Virginia Conference  
United Methodist Church  
Sunday, November 13, 2022 at 3 PM by Zoom**



**Welcome**

Greetings and Opening Prayer

Rev. Doug Forrester, District Superintendent

**District Conference**

Call to Order

Election of Secretary

Attendance

Approval of 2021 Minutes from Roanoke and Staunton District Conferences

Reports and Recognitions

Election of District Leadership Board for 2023

Election of District At-Large Lay Members and Alternates  
for the 2023 Annual Conferences

**Worship**

Music

Introduction of Guest Preacher

Rev. Doug Forrester

Scripture

Ephesians 1: 15-19 (NRSV)

Message

*Giving Thanks*

Hannah Doty

Bailey Scholar- Randolph Macon College

Final Reflections and Sending Forth

Rev. Doug Forrester

## A Message from our District Superintendent, Rev. J. Douglas Forrester



This is a Day of New Beginnings

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In 1978, Brian Wren penned the lyrics to the hymn “This is a Day of New Beginnings,” which is in our United Methodist Hymnal. It opens with the following stanza:

This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that’s gone.

What a blessing it is for us to be partners in ministry, to look back at 2022, and to look forward to 2023 together. This year, we have already completed two District Conferences. The first was to incorporate our new Valley Ridge District and the second was to approve a new simplified accountable structure for our District leadership. And now, we gather for our regular annual District Conference so that we might elect officers and at-large members of the 2023 Annual Conference, all while giving thanks to God for the manifold blessings of the year that has passed.

For by the life and death of Jesus,  
God’s mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference,  
as faith and hope are born again.

Ways saints on the Valley Ridge District have helped faith and hope to be born again include not only the work of compassion that is done in our churches day after day and week after week, but in ministries such as our District home repair mission trip to Plymouth, North Carolina and our collection of flood buckets for UMCOR. Through our churches, the hungry are fed, those who lack clothing find it in our clothes closets or in places like Embrace’s Secret Boutique. Students receive backpacks filled with needed school supplies.

Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring,  
step from the past and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Our God is alive and in our midst in so many ways! Whether it is in the lives of those who have stepped up to serve as lay supply, those who have begun the process towards licensing, those who have followed God to new appointments, laity who have begun as leaders in new ways in our congregations, or new Christians who have proclaimed “I believe,” disciples on the Valley Ridge District continue to live into God’s new future, for the sake of the world Christ died to save.

Christ is alive, and goes before us  
to show and share what love can do.

This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new.

So then, let us all give thanks to God for new beginnings for all that is before us as together we sojourn with the Holy Spirit through all that is to come. God is with us. Hallelujah!

So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

## District Director of Congregational Excellence, Rev. Dr. Dale C. White



This year has been a very busy and productive year for the Valley Ridge District. It is my honor to serve and support our pastors, and laity across the nine counties, two states, and four incorporated cities of the former Staunton District and I look forward to serving in 2023 to the entire Valley Ridge District.

**Laity:** Laity are critical to our mission as United Methodists, and are key to the success of our local churches. More than twenty of our local churches are served by Lay Supply Pastors. There are over 80 Lay Servants/Lay Speakers in the Valley Ridge District. A number of laity are pursuing Certified Lay Ministry certification. Recently a District Lay Ministry Team was formed, composed of Lay Supply, Certified Lay Ministers, Lay Servants, and Lay Speakers from across the new district and supported by District Staff. Our goal is to ensure Lay Servants/

Speakers are properly trained and given opportunities to serve in their churches and beyond. Additionally, our intent is to hold an in-person/on-line hybrid Lay Servant Academy in 2023 for the district, to provide the opportunity to take Lay Servant/Lay Speaker classes locally.

**Training:** This year, we have provided numerous opportunities for training to help our churches excel in certain ministry areas. Four online sessions were offered to help church leaders more effectively communicate through websites and social media. Logan Hollenbeck and I offered a Simplified Accountable Structure overview class to help local churches discern if the SAS model is right for them. During summer cluster meetings, we provided clergy the opportunity to learn of new ways to do ministry by presenting Embrace, A Center for Community and their Director, Rev. Jenelle Watson. Last but not least, along with Wesley Theological Seminary, Rev. Doug Forrester, Rev. John Thomas and I collaborated to develop the first Lewis Center for Church Leadership course to help clergy develop skills for strategic church leadership. Six of our district clergy are taking this course, along with eight other clergy from across the conference.

**District Connections:** By way of preaching, visiting, and circuit riding, I have been able to visit every church in the northern area of the district during my first year on the job. The intent is to let churches know that they are cared for, that the connection is here for them, and to see first hand the great work and ministry they are doing in their local churches. Churches of all sizes are doing important work in their communities.

**Best practices:** While visiting around the district, I discovered that each church is doing incredible things, specific to their local regions. To that end, I began to write regular articles in the form of "Circuit Riding the Valley Ridge District." The purpose of this forum is to spread the word about what our churches are doing, share best practices, and put our churches in touch with each other so that they can learn from each other, duplicate best practices, and have points of contact so that they can find out how other churches have excelled in their best practice ministries. Amazing things are happening, and we have so much to be excited about.

**Strategic Planning:** There's an old phrase I learned long ago: "Plan ahead, it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark." Indeed, one of the main roles of my position is to help churches plan ahead. Why do they exist in their communities? What are the needs of their communities in 2022? What are their strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats? What is their mission and vision, their goals and objectives. I have had the opportunity to sit down with many churches and help them think through these and other questions. In an expanded district, I will need to spend time training clergy in a phased approach to strategic planning, and to lead their congregations in thinking strategically in planning for the future. I look forward to helping churches thrive in their ministry and mission.

**District Team:** After 30 years of service in another division of the United Methodist Church, I am deeply grateful to the District Staff in getting me up to speed on new developments within the denomination and local church. They teach me something new every day. I am thankful for their wisdom, experience, and insight as I seek to help our churches thrive as we bring the grace of Christ, in true Wesley fashion, to the communities of the Valley Ridge District.

## From Our District Leadership

Greeting to all the saints in Christ Jesus.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 *To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven.*

In 1977 George Benson had a hit song called *Everything Must Change*. This past year the Staunton District and the Roanoke District transitioned from two districts to one - the Valley Ridge District. With this change comes new opportunities for each church to bring our resources together to make disciples for Jesus Christ.



I would like to thank the laity of the Staunton District for allowing me to be their District Lay Leader these past years. This has been a highlight of my spiritual walk, and I have served in this position with joy and gratitude. Now I have finished my work as Lay Leader on the Staunton District that was set before me and look forward to new opportunities on the Valley Ridge District.

I end with a quote from John Wesley: *Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen they alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the Kingdom of Heaven upon Earth.*

Grace and Peace,  
*Larry Creamer*  
Northern Area Lay Leader



## **The Report of the Valley Ridge District Committee On Ordained Ministry Northern Area**

The Valley Ridge District Committee on Ministry (DCoM) is amenable to the Virginia Annual Conference through the Board of Ordained Ministry. It is responsible for assessing candidates for ordained ministry, as well as for serving as local pastors and certified lay ministers on the district; this includes assessing their readiness, fitness, and effectiveness in ministry. This committee interviews candidates as they pursue their call and theological education before they go to the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for provisioning or ordination as elders and deacons.

The Valley Ridge District DCoM meets throughout the year to interview candidates inquiring about a call to ordained, licensed, or certified ministry; those seeking certification as candidates for ordained ministry; those seeking provisional membership as a deacon or an elder; and those seeking to be licensed or to continue their license as a local pastor. The committee also interviews those who wish to be certified lay ministers and beginning this year we will also have conversations with our Lay Supply pastors. We are thankful that God continues to call people to minister in our churches.

As of October 2022, the Valley Ridge District Northern Area has: 2 persons who are inquiring candidates, 1 person who is a certified candidate, discerning their call to licensed or ordained ministry, 1 person who is seeking to become a provisional member, 1 person who is a certified lay minister and this year we are meeting with 12 individuals who are our Lay Supply pastors.

The Committee also has the privilege and honor to meet annually with 16 licensed local pastors who serve churches throughout the Valley Ridge District Northern Area. The committee is responsible for the renewal of their licenses for ministry in the local church.

The Valley Ridge District Northern Area Committee consists of clergy and laity. The members of the committee are: Rev. Doug Forrester, Rev. Bill Bearden, Rev. Peter Choi, Rev. Mark Reuter, Rev. Janet Knott, Rev. David Vaughan, Ann Grimmer, Leigh Isberg, and Tom Davis.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. William Bearden - Chair Valley Ridge District - Northern Area DCoM

## **The Report of the Valley Ridge District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Southern Area**

According to *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2016* the responsibilities of the District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM) are as follows:

*“The district committee on ordained ministry shall be amenable to the annual conference through the Board of Ordained Ministry. All members shall be nominated annually by the district superintendent in consultation with the chairperson or executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry and approved by the annual Conference.” (¶ 666.1)*

*“The committee shall maintain a list of all persons who have declared their candidacy for the ordained ministry and are pursuing candidacy studies with a candidacy mentor.....omit....” (¶ 666.3)*

*“The committee shall supervise all matters dealing with candidacy for the ordained ministry and with the license for local pastor.” (¶ 666.6)*

*“The committee shall recommend to the Board of Ordained Ministry those persons who qualify for associate and provisional membership, for license or continuance as local pastors, and for restoration of credentials.... omit...” (¶ 666.9)*

*“The committee shall examine all persons who apply in writing to be certified as lay ministers.” (¶ 666.11).*

In July of 2022, the Roanoke DCOM began operating as the southern area team of The Valley Ridge District Committee on Ordained Ministry. Both the northern and southern teams conduct interviews separately, and then meet together by Zoom to vote on their recommendations.

The Valley Ridge DCOM, Southern Area currently has ten members. We are deeply grateful to Ms. Bobbie Hanby, Ms. Meredith Petty, and Rev. Marilyn Heckstall for their dedicated ministry with the DCOM and bless them as they move on to other ministry opportunities. The team welcomed one new member, Rev. Lauren Lobenhofer, who began serving in July 2022.

### **Clergy:**

Rev. Douglas Forrester, District Superintendent  
Rev. Tim Craft  
Rev. Walter B. Failes  
Rev. Jennifer Fletcher, Co-Chair  
Rev. Lauren Lobenhofer  
Rev. Doug Paysour, Mentor Coordinator  
Rev. Doug Sasser, Registrar  
Rev. Jeff Wilson

### **Laity:**

Ms. Sue Brewer  
Ms. Brenda Brooks

The Valley Ridge DCOM, Southern Area utilizes the Basecamp platform to manage candidate files in keeping with a system developed by the Center for Clergy Excellence. Interviews are conducted in a spirit of prayerful discernment.

The Valley Ridge DCOM Southern Area is walking alongside three admitted candidates, four lay supply pastors, and seventeen Licensed Local Pastors.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jennifer Fletcher  
Co-Chair, Valley Ridge DCOM





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Dear Valley Ridge District Members,

Thank you for your continued support of Alta Mons. Over the course of this past year, we have been able to accomplish many things with a small staff. We are grateful for all of the opportunities that we've had to bless and be blessed by you. As we close out 2022, we reflect on an impactful and meaningful year here on these 850 acres of holy land.

Summer Camp 2022 was a huge success! With lots of planning, preparation, and training we were able to happily and safely serve 289 campers this past summer—our highest number in over 10 years! Max Blalock, Alan Combs, Taylor Mertins, and Amanda Miller Garber each did an amazing job of presenting our summer theme “Share” to campers and staff. We thank them for serving as camp chaplains. Planning has already begun for Summer Camp 2023, and Winter Camp 2022 (December 16-18) is just around the corner. If you know a child or youth who could benefit from a camp experience, please send them to Alta Mons! We would love to have them. Our summer staff had a meaningful experience working with children, living life immersed in nature, developing leadership skills, and growing in their faith this summer. Lots of bonding, memories, and laughs were had by all! If you know someone who might enjoy working here, tell them to apply now. We're already receiving applications for the summer of 2023. Applications are available on our website, along with job descriptions for all of our seasonal positions. This includes kitchen and grounds keeping positions.

Remember, we are open all year for church retreats and meetings, family reunions, and special events. Give our office a call or check out our website for more details and information. We have a wide variety of heated facilities for large and small groups, as well as more rustic accommodations for others. We would love to help you plan a retreat, event, or gathering here at Alta Mons. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the churches of the District, we have been able to upgrade the electrical wiring at the cabins and add exterior lights, put a new roof on the craft hut, install a new high ropes element, remove hazardous trees, and replace a shower and flooring in Carter Cottage.

The Annual Meeting of Alta Mons will be held Sunday November 20, 2022 at 3:00 PM at Alta Mons in the Burrows Retreat Center Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to attend! The presence of Valley Ridge District Clergy, Alta Mons Representatives, Alta Mons Board Members, and Lay Leaders is greatly appreciated. Contact the Alta Mons Office with any questions.

Once again, THANK YOU for your support! Alta Mons is a truly beautiful place, and we are so blessed to have the support of the Valley Ridge District to keep providing outdoor Christian experiences for all generations! We hope you will visit soon.





Christina Gibbs  
Executive Director



3014 Camp Overlook Lane  
Keezletown, VA 22832  
CampOverlook@gmail.com  
540-2My-CAMP  
CampOverlook.org

Dear Members of the District,

It is an absolute pleasure to share with you all that is happening at Camp Overlook! My name is Christina and I was hired as the new Director at the beginning of October. My family and I moved from North Carolina where I served as an Assistant Director at a conference camp in the Western NC District of the UMC.

With October being one of Overlook's busiest off season months; I have hit the ground running! Overlook's summer 2022 was something to celebrate! With the pandemic still around, there was some uncertainty of how it would all turn out. However, campers and staff came to Overlook and lives were changed! There were a total of 196 campers and ... staff members. Our campers journeyed through the Camp Overlook Olympics while learning about prayer and spiritual disciplines. We would like to give a special thank you to the district clergy who spent a week in the woods serving as a Chaplain for our camp community.

We are well underway planning events for summer 2023. We will be reliving the stories of the Old Testament through games, songs, drama, and storytelling! From Adam to Zechariah, we will unfold Bible history in fun and memorable ways. Please share with your congregations, neighbors and friends about this amazing opportunity for children and youth. If you know any high school or college age students who are looking to work and serve for the summer please send them our way.

As 2022 comes to a close, we celebrate and thank God for the ministry happening at Overlook and throughout our district. We thank you for your continued support through your time, financial gifts, and prayers.

Grace and Peace,

Christina Gibbs, Executive Director  
Overlook Retreat and Camp Ministries

## Wesley at Virginia Tech



This past year was one of returning to some sort of normalcy for our students and ministry. Starting the second semester, our students continued to deal with the threat and challenge of COVID-19 on a campus of 30,000+ students. Our Core Ministry Team worked hard to adapt our ministries while maintaining a strong sense of community within Wesley. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Youth Retreats and our Family Dinners were postponed until mid-February. This did not hinder our Mission of “Love Out Loud” and the students still engaged in small groups (Communities of Grace - CoG’s!), our Spring Break Mission Trip to Tuskegee, AL, where we

worked on 4 homes and projects cleaning up the City (our students received a Resolution from the Mayor and City Council of commendation!), worship on Wednesday nights, our food pantry for college students, and many fellowship events.

There continued to be a strong need for pastoral care as students experienced trauma, anxiety, depression, and stress being in school during the pandemic. Our Cook Counseling Center at Virginia Tech was consistently full, and students reached out in numbers not previously seen. Wesley provided space and opportunities for students to find grace and peace during this very challenging time!

As usual, our Discernment Team worked tirelessly to vision for the 2022-2023 school year putting in over 60 hours of work to discern our strategies for disciple making and our new Core Ministry Team. This work was crucial because we had around 25 Seniors graduating in May 2022! It is challenging to lose 1/4 (or more) of your ministry every year, but our student leadership sought to increase our Outreach efforts in hopes of gaining more Wesley students. We transition our leadership after Spring Break in March. The new Core Ministry Team consisted of all new students except for one. Our outgoing Core Ministry Team helped the new team to understand our current context and provided necessary support in this transition of leadership. The joy of Team Based ministry was witnessed in a seamless transition. Our new Core Ministry Team jumped right in and began, not only planning for the coming year, but also finishing out the second semester strong.

This summer our Core Ministry Team was strewn all across the globe; from Germany to France to Kentucky! In spite of this challenge, the Core Ministry Team worked hard in their respective ministry areas to produce an incredible start to our new school year. Our Outreach Team came up with 13 Welcome Weeks events in 21 days! It started with our Welcome Cookout where we served over 400 students and closed with over 150 students coming by our table at Gobblerfest. In between we hosted Classroom Quest (where we handed out maps and showed students where their classes would be), Water Wars (a water balloon fight after the first day of classes), Tie Dye Tuesday, Worship and S’mores, Life-size Game Night, Pet a Pup, and several Movie Nights! We are excited about the number of new students getting connected to our ministry.

Our annual Fall Retreat was held at Camp Dickenson again in Fries, VA. We had 27 students attend and 11 of those were new students to Wesley! Our theme was “Be Real” and we talked about how to be real in our faith, relationships, and conversations about faith. This is going to be continued in our Youth Retreat on March 17-19 as we hope to host youth from our District and beyond to talk about “Being Real!”

All of this is in addition to our normal weekly events such as CoGs, Worship, Family Dinners, Tutoring, Mission Days, Interfaith events, and lots of fellowship in our building and around town. Wesley would like to thank our wonderful District for all of your support! Without you we would not be able to “Love Out Loud” on our campus, in our community, and around the world. You are truly a blessing.

Rev. Bret Gresham, Campus Minister



## **2022 Board of Missions Report Staunton District of the United Methodist Church**

The Board of Missions of the Staunton District is now in its second half century of ministry. Its registration with the State Corporation Commission was renewed in April 2022.

Funding for the work of the Board of Missions comes from several sources:

- \$5,000 (January 2022) was received from the Staunton District Fund apportionment for the Board of Missions
  - Second Mile Club members (individuals and organizations) gave \$2,708 (FY21)
  - Principal investments for Investment Fund and The Palmer Bequest with The Virginia Conference United Methodist Foundation had an unrealized gain of \$3,204
  - No-interest loans balance totaled \$10,400 as of 12/31/21
- Expenses related to the closed churches were \$6,516

Since the last Annual Meeting, The Board of Missions has offered:

Loans of \$10,900.

Grants of over \$40,223 were provided to:

Just Neighbors to help with legal costs;  
Embrace to help with Ministries;  
Central UMC in Staunton to help with upkeep of food bank van;  
Bethlehem UMC to help with purchase of stair chair lift;  
Longdale UMC to help with repairs to church roof and building;  
Collierstown UMC for roof repairs.  
Parrish Court UMC to help with church roof and ceiling repairs.

### **Officers:**

President..... Scarlett Danraj  
Vice President..... Larry Creamer  
Secretary..... Donna Desper  
Treasurer..... David Mawyer

#### **Class of 2022-2023**

Rev. Doug Hollenbeck  
Cindy Jarvis

#### **Class of 2023-2024**

Scarlett Danraj  
Jeff Kiser  
Donna Desper

#### **Class of 2024-2025**

Rev. Jonathan Greer  
Linda White  
Rev. Dr. Dale White

Ex-Officio..... Rev. Douglas Forrester, District Superintendent  
Ex-Officio..... Larry Creamer, District Lay Leader

## Roanoke District Board of Missions and Church Extension

The Board of Missions began 2022 with renewed direction and attention to how to best support impactful ministries in our communities: start-up funding for new mission and outreach initiatives through district churches; capacity-building for ministries and community-based non-profits; and sustainability through partnership (between churches, schools, community-based ministries, and organizations). These core values will help define the Board of Missions in its stewardship of resources.

The annual grant funding process was open to district United Methodist churches and ministries to support innovative ministry and tangible and caring outreach that is beyond the scope of normal funding processes in local churches and ministries.

For community outreach ministries, instead of direct grants, we had planned to strengthen our offering of ministry accelerator events to assist organizations in building capacity for sustained community impact.

In both the grant process and the capacity-building events, the Board of Missions values evidence of deepening partnerships as a path toward increased sustainability.

The Roanoke District Board of Missions and Church Extension approved **\$79,000** in grants and support at their Annual Meeting on March 7, 2022. It is the generosity of United Methodists across our district through Apportionments and Builder's Club that make these grants possible. Grants and support were approved in 2022 for the following churches and organizations:

- o Kids Soar Children's Literacy Program
- o Kids Soar Youth Program
- o Community College Ministry - Alliance for Excellence program
- o Fincastle UMC - blessings box ministry
- o Mays Memorial UMC - school backpack program
- o Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech –student outreach program

Support was also approved for the District Superintendent Discretionary Fund and salary support for a Director of Congregational Excellence, and a Ministry Accelerator event.

Roanoke District Board of Missions and Church Extension –Board of Directors

Rev. J. Douglas Forrester, President  
Dr. Nathaniel L. Bishop, Vice-President (Asbury)  
Cynthia Martin, Secretary (Cave Spring)  
James E. Pearman, Jr., Treasurer (White Memorial)  
Phyllis Geoghegan, UWF Representative (Blacksburg)  
Rev. Bryan Buckles (Central, Salem)  
Judy Dickerson (Raleigh Court)  
Rev. Dr. William C. Logan (South Roanoke)  
Stephen A. Musselwhite (Thrasher Memorial)



**Roanoke  
District Board  
of Missions  
and Church  
Extension**

## Community College Ministries District Report 2022

Community College Ministries was launched on January 24, 1984, in response to the growth of community colleges in Virginia and the need for ministry specifically with that student population. The number of full-time equivalent students enrolled in the community colleges we serve in the fall of 2022 is 26,217. Our mission is to share the love and compassion of Jesus Christ with community college students and support them in their personal, spiritual, educational, family, and job environment. So, with the Reverends Willie Butler (UMC) and James Ephraim (PCUSA) and a grant from EMLC of GBGM and the PCUSA's Martin Luther King, Jr., Fund for Self-Determination in 1986, we launched a program called Alliance for Excellence in partnership with area Black churches to help bridge the 50% gap in educational participation of Black and White students. In 2018, Community College Ministries and the program described above, Alliance for Excellence, teamed with the Office of Racial Healing at Duke University to begin to offer circles of racial healing and transformation near our campuses. That year, over two hundred people assembled at Virginia Western Community College (top) to celebrate over 30 years of ministries sponsored by Community College Ministries. From 1984 to 2018, over 30,000 young people have offered or benefited from these ministries as disciples of Jesus Christ. Another need we discovered were the challenges faced



by rising college students coming out of foster care homes and institutions so in 2018 we started working with Open Table and United Methodist Family Services and the Community College program called Great Expectations. Since our inception, Community College Ministries has not only been a ministry of outreach, but also a ministry of hosting. We have hosted mission volunteer groups to work in our communities, namely those struggling economically in the Appalachian counties of southwestern Virginia (bottom). As coal companies moved out of the area, former mining families could not afford to do even modest improvements on their coal community homes and so we teamed with Grace House on the Mountain north of St. Paul, Virginia, to host groups that would do home repair and winterization. Over 70 homes of the elderly are currently on the waiting list for repairs. In a new program, Community College Ministries and Pearisburg Presbyterian Church teamed up to offer retreats for groups like the Presbyterian Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech on the New River (center). The campus



minister, Steve Darr, has also served as a pastoral resource with local congregations including Asbury UMC in Christiansburg, Park UMC in Christiansburg, Pearisburg Presbyterian Church, and the Presbyterian Church of Radford. In 2023, we hope to reinstate "Rally in the Valley" gathering of college fellowship groups to inspire a kindred fellowship among diverse groups. There's lots more. Please contact us about a presentation to your church or church group. We would love to share our story.

Community College Ministries | Rev. Steve Darr, 620 N. Main St., Suite 306, Blacksburg, VA 24060, 540-230-8581



## Embrace – A Center for Community Valley Ridge District Report

Valley Ridge District Siblings. You have strong arms and an incredibly long reach. Want proof? Through your support of Embrace -- your District Mission Outpost and Ministry Incubator in Waynesboro -- you've made the following possible during the first three quarters of 2022:

- 1** individual seeded into business through our lawncare business incubator program
- 2** Central Shenandoah Health District Community Health Workers provided free office space for direct engagement with neighbors
- 5** refugee families supplied with support and connection to wrap-around services
- 15** middle-school students engaged in agricultural education in partnership with Allegheny Mountain Institute
- 30** persons assisted with Driver's License applications through Sin Barreras
- 50** pumpkins grown and distributed by middle school students to at-risk peers
- 60** neighbors provided with free legal services for non-immigration cases through Sin Barreras
- 85** clients provided free attorney services through Sin Barreras and Just Neighbors
- 91** persons provided health and wellness information and/or connection to other services
- 156** adult visits to the community clothing closet
- 212** students given clothing, personal care and school supplies through Green Hanger Project
- 272** volunteers and financial supporters sharing life and love with neighbors
- 325** residents provided critical free health care in partnership with Augusta Health
- 445** people provided with economic assistance through Sin Barreras
- 480** educational visits to the community garden by preschoolers
- 1,020** people helped through Sin Barreras, our in-house partner supporting the immigrant community
- 1,565** books distributed through our Little Free Library in partnership with Waynesboro Kiwanis
- 1,805** family visits to glean food from the community garden and Freedge through our partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension and Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
- 2,000+** gallons of water saved through use of rain capture systems to provide water for the community garden
- 2,500+** hours of compassionate care contributed by community volunteers;
- 3,610** pounds of produce distributed to food-insecure neighbors
- 9,218** items of clothing distributed to neighbors in need
- \$10,000** grant-funded direct financial assistance provided to immigrant families struggling to overcome COVID-19 related loss of work.
- \$400,000+** total direct economic impact

THANKS TO YOU and the intensive partnerships you have enabled us to nurture with more than two dozen community agencies and organizations. **That's a solid return on your investment** into an organization with a budget in 2022 of less than \$50,000 and one part-time staff person.

**We can do more, together – not only in Waynesboro, but in communities throughout the Valley Ridge District.** That's why, in 2023, we are seeking 10 people from each Valley Ridge District congregation to contribute \$10 a week to Embrace. Those contributions will cover increased costs and support us as we share our models of ministry with others. Your prayerful financial support of Embrace is priceless. These numbers only scratch the surface. The real story of what your investment continues to yield can be seen daily in the faces of people who are finding help, healing, and hope through Embrace each week ... because of you.



### Want to learn more? Come see for yourself!

We welcome visitors and the opportunity to share what we have learned. For information, to schedule a visit, or plan a workshop contact Rev.

Jenelle Watson, Embrace Director:

JenelleWatson@VAUMC.org or (540) 649-7149.





## **Hermitage Roanoke**

1009 Old Country Club Road  
Roanoke, VA 24017  
540-767-6800  
[www.hermitageroanoke.org](http://www.hermitageroanoke.org)

Hermitage Roanoke, a part of Pinnacle Living, Inc., is a continuing care retirement community with the senior population at heart that is located adjacent to the Roanoke Country Club and situated on 10 acres of beauty, peacefulness and serenity. For almost 60 years, Hermitage Roanoke has cared for the senior populations in our community! Hermitage Roanoke offers independent living, assisted living and nursing care to seniors age 62 and older.

### **Hermitage Community Guild**

The Hermitage Guild was organized in 1950 to communicate the mission of Pinnacle Living, formerly Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc, to local churches. The Guild has three primary objectives.

- To emphasize service to the Pinnacle Living communities and to the residents of these communities in cooperation with the Executive Directors and/or designated staff persons.
- To assist with the interpretation and promotion of the Samaritan Program Offering of Pinnacle Living within the local churches of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.
- To promote a close relationship between the Hermitage Community Guild and local churches through communication of the mission of Pinnacle Living and sharing the stories of the specific communities.

This year our Guild will be selling pecans as a fundraiser. Our BIG fund raisers in the past were held in and around the Hermitage building, but Covid-19 has put an end to that indefinitely. Last year we put together a turkey dinner for all employees (including a turkey, box of dressing mix, box of instant potatoes, large can of green beans, a packet of gravy and a pie) and gave them out on the Thursday before Thanksgiving. We are doing that again this year.

The Guild will be decorating Christmas trees in the main building on Monday, November 28th . We made new door decorations for the residents in the building who need one. During the decorating we will have an “in house” bake sale for the residents.

Again, this year, we were able to purchase some lighting features for the FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS held on the property with the kick-off date of Saturday, December 3rd from 6 PM until 9 PM. The display will be up through January 1, 2023. This year we are partnering with Feeding Southwest Virginia and asking folks to bring canned food when they drive through. We encourage church buses, vans or cars full of folks of all ages.

This year's display will be bigger and better than ever, so please plan to come and advertise it in your churches!! It's the Hermitage's gift to the community!!

Louise Miller, Guild President

## United Women in Faith - Northern Area

On October 1, we celebrated together at our Annual Meeting. Even though it was a rainy day with the leftovers from Hurricane Ian, we had a total of 38 women attend. We did many recognitions – remembered our deceased members, remembered and honored others through a candle burning ceremony, recognized Rainbow Givers, Five and Six Star Units, Living Into Our Purpose Units, and Program reports. We voted on a budget for our new combined District for 2023, and voted on new officers for the coming year. We also remembered our past President from 1970 to the present. Our speaker was Marlene Dakita, the Virginia Conference Coordinator for Membership Nurture, and Outreach. We then had a delicious lunch that the women of Main Street UWF prepared. It was remarkable that the first annual meeting of the Staunton District met at Main Street UMC in 1969 and our last annual meeting of the Staunton District was held in the same church, Main Street UMC in Waynesboro. We indeed came full circle!

On October 22, the 50th Annual Virginia Conference United Women in Faith Meeting was held by Zoom. It was a time of celebrating and remembering. Two things of note are: 1) We came in First Place for Percentage Participation of Units in Living Into Our Purpose, and 2) We came in Third Place for Rainbow Givers. Congratulations to us!

Our last event of 2022 (and for the Staunton District) will be the Advent Breakfast on December 3 at Granbery Memorial UMC in Covington. We hope that everyone will be present for this wonderful way to ring in the Advent season.

I am always up for a visit to local units. I would love to attend a meeting or special event so I can get to know you face to face. You may consider combining meetings with other units/churches in the future, especially for special events – it's also a great way to meet new people. And don't forget to invite your friends, family, and neighbors to your unit meetings—all women of faith are welcome. If you would like me to do a presentation or give information about our new district and new name, you can call me at 540-414-8518 or email at [bbrossy@verizon.net](mailto:bbrossy@verizon.net).

I want to thank the officers who served in 2022 and look forward to working with folks from the Staunton and Roanoke areas in 2023.

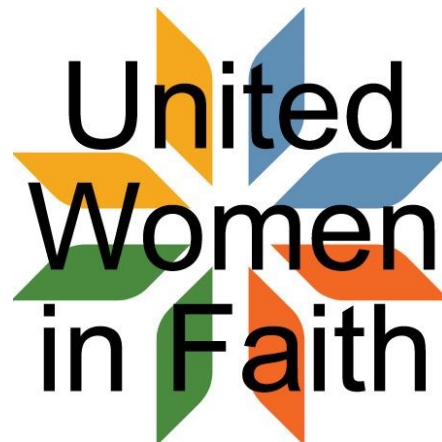
Blessings and peace, Betty Brossy, UWF District President

## United Women in Faith - Southern Area

*Healing and Joy on our Journey to God* was the theme for our Spiritual Life Retreat, on April 9, 2022 at Alta Mons Camp and Retreat Center in Shawsville. This was the first time we had been together in person in two years and it was an joyful time of learning, worship and fellowship. We learned about the *No One Dies Alone* program at Carilion Clinic, participated in worship led by Rev. Brenda Sternfeld and enjoyed the hospitality (and warm fire) of Alta Mons. We collected over \$900 for Alta Mons summer camp supplies.

We were excited to welcome and get to know some of the UWF leaders from the Staunton District as we met together to prepare to become the Valley Ridge District UWF in 2023. Those meeting were held in our area at Northview UMC and New Castle UMC.

Roanoke District UWF Day was held on October 8, 2022 at Northview UMC in Roanoke. Rev. Lauren Lobenhofer was our speaker. A wonderful breakfast and fellowship were enjoyed. We remembered our deceased members in a beautiful candle burning litany. Our retiring leaders were recognized. The history of the Roanoke District UWF was shared and we celebrated the many accomplishments of our units this year. We looked ahead to 2023 by approving a budget and electing and installing new leaders.



**Minutes – The Eighty-Third Session (2021)**  
**The Staunton District Conference**  
**By Zoom – November 9 at 6:00 p.m.**

The Eighty-Third Session of The Staunton District United Methodist Church Conference was held on Tuesday, November 9, beginning at 6:00 p.m. by Zoom. Rev. Douglas Forrester, District Superintendent, presided.

Rev. Forrester gave welcome and introduced himself. He then gave the opening prayer and called the meeting to order. Doug nominated Donna Desper as Secretary. Pastor Joe Rose made a motion that Donna Desper be the Secretary for the District Conference. Butch Washer seconded the motion. It was approved.

The Minutes of the last District Conference were read. Rev. Forrester asked if there were any corrections. Rev. Doug Hollenbeck made a motion to approve the 2020 Minutes. Rev. Mike Harrington seconded the motion. It was approved.

Rev. Forrester referred everyone to the 2022 Budget in the District Book of Reports. (The Book of Reports had been emailed out to all District Clergy and Officers.) He informed those present that the District Stewards had approved the Budget.

Doug then asked us to look at page 3 where the reports begin. He introduced Rev. Dale White, District Director of Congregational Excellence. Dale stated he had been to most of our churches and looked forward to being in all the churches. He stated that he is here to serve. Doug asked Larry Creamer, District Lay Leader, to speak. Larry thanked the District for allowing him to serve as their Lay Leader. Doug thanked Larry for all his work as the District Lay Leader. He also thanked Susan Obaugh for serving as our Associate Lay Leader. Doug also spoke about the good work of our District Committees—the District Committee on Ordained Ministry, the Board of Mission Managers and the Embrace Ministry.

Rev. Forrester stated that the District Officers this year were basically rolled over from last year. He asked for a vote and the Officers were approved. Doug then gave a prayer for our District Officers.

Rev. Forrester then spoke about the District At Large Delegates listed on the back of the District Book of Reports. He informed us that the District was entitled to thirteen Delegates to Annual Conference. The list of the twelve Delegates had been sent out to all the Laity by email and all responses had come back approved. Doug also asked if anyone had a nominee to fill our last eligible position. Pastor Joe Rose nominated James Mathias from his church. There were no further nominees. James Mathias was voted as our thirteenth member.

Doug thanked people for their prayers. He stated that having two District is like being told you had twins. It is a lot of work, but also a great deal of joy. He then informed us about a program at Randolph Macon College for undergraduates who are planning on entering the ministry. He introduced Hannah Doty from Calvary UMC who is studying for the ministry. Hannah spoke about her church and her school. Doug stated that she is a proud product of the Staunton District.

Rev. Dale White gave a closing prayer. Rev. Doug Forrester gave blessing, thanked everyone and adjourned the Conference.

Donna Desper, Secretary

# **154th SESSION OF THE ROANOKE DISTRICT CONFERENCE MINUTES**

**Sunday, November 7, 2021 By Zoom**

The 154<sup>th</sup> session of the Roanoke District Conference was held by Zoom on Sunday, November 7, 2021, at 3 PM. 108 people registered/73 attended.

Following the greeting and opening prayer, the Reverend J. Douglas Forrester, Roanoke District Superintendent, called the meeting to order. He welcomed all clergy, laity and guests.

Rev. Forrester called for the election of a secretary. Cindy Martin was elected. He gave members time to review the minutes of the 2020 District Conference found on page 4 in the District Conference Book of Reports that was emailed along with the meeting link prior to the meeting and screen-shared at this time. It was voted to approve the minutes as presented.

Rev. Forrester drew attention to the Budget and the Reports and Recognition found in the Book of Reports. These pages highlight the mission and ministries of the District. He praised the work of all the District Boards and Committees and recognized those who have served and are leaving District leadership.

At this time, Rev. Forrester celebrated the work of the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the clergy and candidates they mentor.

Rev. Forrester referred to the proposed slate of leaders for the year 2022 as recommended by the District Committee on Nominations. He asked everyone to review the committees found in the District Conference Book of Reports and screen shared at this time and called for any further nominations from the floor. There being no nominations from the floor, a verbal vote from clergy and laity was taken, and the slate of nominees was elected. He then prayed for those taking on these responsibilities of District leadership.

Rev. Forrester explained the elections of At-Large District Lay Members and Alternates to Annual Conference 2022. He specified that the rules state that only lay persons may vote for these lay members at large. He asked for nominations from the floor. There was one question about youth members. It was explained that the District Common Table appoints two youth and two young adult members to Annual Conference. Those people would be designated at a future time. No additional nominations were made by the body. Since the slate was not larger than the number of delegated allowed, the body was asked and agreed to elect At-Large District Lay Members to Annual Conference 2022 with a simple voice vote. The slate found in the BOR was elected.

At this time Rev. Forrester spent a moment in remembrance of clergy and clergy spouses who have died this year.

To conclude the gathering, Rev. Forrester thanked those that had prepared for this gathering and shared his joy working with the clergy and laity of the Roanoke District and closed the meeting in prayer.

Cynthia Martin, Secretary

## **Valley Ridge Nominations for District Leadership Board (DLB)**

### **To be elected at District Conference**

Nominees for the District Leadership Board (DLB) will be screenshared  
at the appropriate time during the conference.

## **District Committee on Church Location and Building (DBCLB) 2022-2023**

### **Previously elected at Annual Conference**

#### **Northern Area**

Rev. Doug Forrester, Stephen Young, Rex Buel, Rev. Dave Boger, William Bushman, Cindy Jarvis,  
Rev. Andrew Baek, Doug Urbaniak, Becky Grandle

#### **Southern Area**

Rev. Douglas Forrester, Ronnie Brooks, Debbie Brown, Rev. B. Failes, Rev. Doug Mitchell,  
Rev. Joanna Paysour, Patsy Sparks, Don Witt, Cynthia Martin, Dr. N.L. Bishop

## **District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM) 2022-2023**

### **Previously elected at Annual Conference**

#### **Clergy:**

Bill Bearden, Peter Baesick Choi, Tim Craft, B. Failes, Jennifer Fletcher, Doug Forrester, Janet  
Knott, Lauren Lobenhofer, Doug Paysour, Mark Reuter, Doug Sasser, David Vaughan, Jeff Wilson

#### **Laity:**

Sue Brewer, Brenda Brooks, Tom Davis, Anne Grimmer, Leigh Iberg

## 2023 Valley Ridge District Budget

## Campus Ministry

Eastern Mennonite Campus Ministry	\$	5,000.00
VMI/W&L Campus Ministry	\$	1,500.00
Shenandoah University Campus Ministry	\$	3,000.00
Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech	\$	20,000.00

<b>Total Campus Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 29,500.00</b>
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## District Ministries

Leadership Development	\$	4,500.00
Youth and Children Ministry	\$	8,000.00
Lay Servant Ministry	\$	1,300.00
UMVIM	\$	1,000.00
Disaster Response	\$	500.00
Emerging Ministries/Resources	\$	5,200.00

<b>Total District Ministries</b>	<b>\$ 20,500.00</b>
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<b>Board of Missions</b>	<b>\$ 53,000.00</b>
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<b>Annual Conference Expense</b>	<b>\$ 11,000.00</b>
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## Personal

Director of Congregational Excellence

Salary	\$	50,000.00
Housing	\$	23,000.00
Health Insurance	\$	700.00
Retirement	\$	10,332.00
Continuing Education	\$	750.00

Total Director of Congregational Excellence	\$ 84,782.00
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## Administrative Assistant

Salary	\$ 55,187.00
FICA	\$ 4,222.00
Health Insurance	\$ 8,400.00
Retirement	\$ 3,311.00
Travel	\$ 1,000.00
Continuing Education	\$ 750.00

Total Administrative Assistant	\$ 72,870.00
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## Director of Communications and Programming

Salary	\$	57,000.00
FICA	\$	4,714.00
Health Insurance	\$	4,620.00
Retirement	\$	3,420.00
Travel	\$	1,000.00
Continuing Education	\$	750.00

Total Director of Communications & Programming	\$ 71,504.00
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Treasurer

Salary	\$	14,000.00
FICA	\$	1,071.00

Total Treasurer	\$ 15,071.00
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<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 244,227.00</b>
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**District Office**

Rent	\$ 17,000.00
Utilities	\$ 3,500.00
Telephone and Internet	\$ 6,000.00
Office Supplies (postage, printing, other supplies)	\$ 10,600.00
Equipment Service Contracts	\$ 15,000.00
Property Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 4,000.00
Office Equipment	\$ 4,000.00
Financial Audit	\$ 8,300.00
Insurance	\$ 4,500.00
Website	\$ 500.00
Hospitality/Lay Travel	\$ 1,500.00
District Conference Expenses	<u>\$ 750.00</u>

**Total District Office** **\$ 76,550.00**

**District Superintendent**

Housing Allowance (\$23,000 less subsidy)	\$ 16,000.00
Moving Expense Escrow	\$ 500.00
DS Fund	\$ 17,000.00
Cell Phone Reimbursement	<u>\$ 600.00</u>

**Total District Superintendent** **\$ 34,100.00**

**Contingencies** **\$ 2,500.00**

**TOTAL BUDGET** **\$ 471,377.00**

This budget was approved at the meeting of the Valley Ridge District Stewards  
on August 30, 2022

## Nominees for Valley Ridge District Members to 2023 Annual Conference

The following persons have self-nominated and provided the information presented for review.

### **Nathaniel L. Bishop** (Asbury, Christiansburg)

Gender: *Male*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *Black or African American*

Currently Serving: *Chair, Board of Trustees, Member of Finance Committee, PPRC, Sunday School, UMM, Church Choir, Lay Servant*

Feel Called to Serve: *Prior to this past Annual Conference, I have been a local church or district delegate at each of the previous forty three annual conference sessions. I have served the church at the local, district, annual conference and general conference levels. As in the past, I continue to deeply care for and appreciate the high value of our connectional system.*

### **Beverly Bonderman** (Central UMC, Salem)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *UWF Treasurer, Church Outreach Coordinator, Hospitality Co-host @ Table worship service.*

Feel Called to Serve: *I feel led to add my voice to the direction of our UMC.*

### **Warner Bonderman** (Central UMC, Salem)

Gender: *Male*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *Church Finance Chair: District Nominations and Finance*

Feel Called to Serve: *I have been attending Annual Conference for several years. Our denomination is at a critical juncture and I desire to be part of the conversation that determines the directions we go in the future.*

### **Brenda Brooks** (Bonsack UMC, Roanoke)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *Chair of Finance in local church. Serve on DCOM, Alta Mons Board, Superintendency Committee; member of the VAUMC SEJ delegation*

Feel Called to Serve: *I believe my experience as a member of Annual Conference for many years has made me aware of the big church. I have been active in the United Methodist Church since I was a teenager, (many years ago). I feel like I can see both the laity and the clergy rolls in our denomination.*

### **J. Andree Brooks** (West End UMC, Roanoke)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *West End Trustees, women's group organizer, past administrative board chair*

Feel Called to Serve: *Experience with nonprofit administration, personnel, accounting, finance, project and volunteer management, working with committees and boards of directors, planning.*

**Earl David Cash** (Oak Hill UMC, Waynesboro)

Gender: *Male*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *Church Lay Leader*

Feel Called to Serve: *Desire to continue serving as I have for the past number of years*

**Bill Chaffin** (First UMC, Salem)

Gender: *Male*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *Conference Scouting Coordinator, Board of Laity, UMM*

Feel Called to Serve: *Well versed in Discipline and have positive, fluid relationships throughout District and Conference.*

**Keith Cox** (Ebenezer UMC, Troutville)

Gender: *Male*

Generation: *Youth*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *I try to go to every meeting that I have a vote in or need hands for, basically am there just to help in anyway I can.*

Feel Called to Serve: *I have a serving spirit and want to serve.*

**Larry Creamer** (Greenville UMC, Greenville)

Gender: *Male*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *Black or African American*

Currently Serving: *Member local church PPR; District Lay Leader; Chairman, Leadership Team*

Feel Called to Serve: *I currently serve as a member of the Virginia Annual Conference BOL. I have previously served as a District-At- Large Member on the former Staunton District. It would be my privilege to represent the Valley Ridge District as an at large member to the annual conference.*

**Donna Desper** (St. Mark's UMC, Waynesboro)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *SPPR Chairperson, Secretary Administrative Council, Charge Conference Secretary, District Conference Delegate*

Feel Called to Serve: *It is my privilege to serve in anyway possible on the District.*

**Scarlett Danraj** (Calvary UMC, Staunton Draft)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *White*

Ethnic Background: *Adult*

Currently Serving: *I serve on staff as the Director of Ministries with Young People.*

Feel Called to Serve: *I love the church and the people. I also feel called to help build the bridge between the church and the local communities in which we all live and work. I am passionate about ministries with children, youth, young adults, and young families, and work closely with many folks in these areas of ministry.*

**Jan McCall Failes** (Ashwood UMC, Hot Springs)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *not at this time*

Feel Called to Serve: *I've served the UMC in many ways over 30 years, but feel called now to be part of the team as we wrestle with ministry at this time. I especially love to see the UMC share Christ's love through UMVIM and other missions.*

**Claire Forrester** (Cave Spring UMC, Roanoke)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Youth*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *have previously served as AC Youth Member in 2021; youth group*

Feel Called to Service: *to provide a voice for young people in the conference*

**Ellen Forrester** (Cave Spring UMC, Roanoke)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Young Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *Annual Conference member in 2022;*

Feel Called to Serve: *Would like to continue serving as a Young Adult member*

**Tracy Forrester** (Cave Spring UMC, Roanoke)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *Backpack Ministry; Praise Band, Youth Ministry*

Feel Called to Serve: *Would like to support Conference mission as well as ministries to children and youth*

**Gayle Graves** (St. Paul UMC, Roanoke)

Gender: *Female*

Generation:

Ethnic Background: *Black or African American*

Currently Serving: *District AC member; Council secretary, member of S/PPRC*

Feel Called to Serve: *Being involved on a conference level has helped me to understand the workings of the United Methodist Church better. What I learn I come back and share with the congregation.*

**David Grimm** (Greenville UMC, Greenville)

Gender: *White*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *Local Church Finance Chair*

Fell Called to Serve: *Member of Annual Conference for over 40 years. Served all Local Church and District Offices over the years of service. Served Conference Board of Laity, Equitable Compensation, elected Delegate for Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, 2000.*

**Deborah B Grimm** (Greenville UMC, Greenville)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *Lay servant, president of Greenville ladies, Sunday School substitute, communion steward, choir member, member of worship & mission teams*

Feel Called to Serve: *I feel that I am qualified as a member of UMC for over 50 years and my experience in various leadership positions in many churches. I believe that Jesus Christ is the true Son of God and the Bible is the true Word of God.*

**Alan S. Johnson** (Asbury UMC, Christiansburg)

Gender: *Male*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *Black or African American*

Currently Serving: *Trustee chair, Church Council member, choir*

Feel Called to Serve: *To engage in worship and fellowship. To insure that what we believe in based on our Social Principles, Affirmations of Faith and worship structure we will continue to feed, give drink, invite, cloth, care and visit at least one; then we will have done it for "Him".*

**Phil Lemons** (Main Street UMC, Waynesboro)

Gender: *Male*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *Church Treasurer*

Feel Called to Serve: *The UMC is in a season of change. I feel I have the time and background to help in the UMC moving forward. The church is evolving and I have prayed about this and feel I am to be part of this movement. Have been a member of UMC since 1978.*

**Cynthia Martin** (Cave Spring UMC, Roanoke)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *Lay Servant; District UWF Board; District Board of Missions; Conference Finance & Administration; District At-Large Member of AC*

Feel Called to Serve: *Having served previously in this capacity, I feel called to the connectional blessings of the Annual Conference and to strengthen the partnership of Clergy and Laity. Helping to shape the mission and ministry of the Annual Conference would be a privilege.*

**Jacob Paysour** (Greene Memorial UMC, Roanoke)

Gender: *Male*

Generation: *Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *District At-Large Lay Member for Annual Conference, Jurisdictional and General Conference Delegate*

Feel Called to Serve: *I have been moved at the Spirit's call to the people of the Annual Conference to continually stand up for what is right even in the face of injustice, both within and beyond the walls of the church, and am glad to continue serving that call.*

**Rhonda Rogers** (Asbury, Christiansburg)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *Black or African American*

Currently Serving: *Lay Leader, Unit Women of Faith Secretary*

Feel Called to Serve: *Served many years prior to COVID, and am looking forward to the to serve once again in a way to help lift up God's kingdom in worship and to go about the business of the United Methodist Church on a larger level.*

**Lois Sanborn** (Locust Grove UMC, Salem)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *At-large AC member*

Feel Called to Serve: *I view issues through the lens of my faith and social justice. I have new hope our church will thrive as we prayerfully resolve the way forward. I would be honored to serve!*

**Nancy Sasser** (Newport-Mt. Olivet UMC, Newport)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *Church Lay Leader*

Feel Called to Serve: *I believe strongly that participation in Conference is very important if our denomination is to continue to grow and bring others to Christ. Hearing different view points and discussions helps to increase my knowledge and understanding of the United Methodist Church. To serve again would be a blessing.*

**Elizabeth Valentine Segovia** (Main Street UMC, Waynesboro)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Youth*

Ethnic Background: *Latino or Hispanic, White*

Currently Serving: *I currently participate in Youth Group, confirmation and joined the youth delegation last year at annual conference as an observer.*

Feel Called to Serve: *I would like to serve because my voice matters. I have been taught that unique voices can change the church. My younger perspective may change other people's perspective on issues of Justice.*

**Lori Valentine de Segovia** (Main Street UMC, Waynesboro)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *District Lay Board, Lay Supply at Lyndhurst-Oak Hill Charge , Church Council/Annual Conference alternative (Main Street); Conference- Called to Action Work Group on Racial Reconciliation, former CEMCA chair (2 terms); Agency board- Path 1;*

Feel Called to Serve: *I feel called to continue to serve our connectional church at the conference level in a new role. I have mentored and continue to mentor young and non-traditional leaders to have voice, vote, and presence at the table. I serve on the district's board of Laity, Path1, and the Global Board of Higher Education (GBHEM) bilingually.*



**Butch Washer** (Mint Spring UMC, Staunton)

Gender: *Male*

Generation: *Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *Trustee, District Steward, Church Disaster Coordinator, District At-Large Lay Member*

Feel Called to Serve: *I've felt privileged to represent my District at AC. I take it seriously when considering what is up for vote and to take note of what it is. I feel blessed to be part of the AC in order to take back to my church and to the District.*

**Helen Watson** (Northview UMC, Roanoke)

Gender: *Female*

Generation: *Older Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *Lay Servant, Sunday School Teacher, President UWF; Treasurer District UWF*

Fell Called to Serve: *It is important to be involved throughout the District to stay abreast of ways we can help the community, the church and anyone in need of not spiritual or any other need.*

**Roger Watson** (Calvary UMC. Stuarts Draft)

Gender: *Male*

Generation: *Adult*

Ethnic Background: *White*

Currently Serving: *worship tech team; volunteer at Embrace; District At-Large member to Annual Conference in 2022.*

Feel Called to Serve: *I wish to serve the district as an at-large member to explore ways to connect other United Methodists who may not be able to attend a physical church but have a desire to experience worship through other non in-person methods.*