



# Mission Rivers District

Virginia Annual Conference The United Methodist Church

## News and Notes



### Virginia Conference to welcome new bishop in January

Bishop Sue Haupt-Johnson was assigned to the Virginia Conference at the 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference (SEJ) on November 4 at Lake Junaluska, NC. Bishop Haupt-Johnson was elected to the episcopacy at the 2016 SEJ and has been serving over the North Georgia Conference. She will begin on January 1, 2023.

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, current episcopal leader of the Virginia Conference, was assigned to the Mississippi Conference at the 2022 SEJ.

Virginia Conference episcopal nominee the Rev. Tom Berlin was elected to the episcopacy on November 2 on the fourth ballot. Bishop Berlin was assigned to the Florida Conference.

Find Bishop Haupt-Johnson's initial communication to the Virginia Conference as well as a recap of all the jurisdictional business sessions on the conference website.

The Southeastern Jurisdiction of United Methodist Church is a regional body comprised of 14 conferences, including the Virginia Conference. This meeting, which was attended by more than 350 voting delegates, elected new bishops and determined assignments for all SEJ bishops from January 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.



## Save These Dates!

**December 5th, 2022**

**1st Annual Mission  
Rivers District**

**Conference 7:00 pm**

Please [Click here](#) to register for this Zoom Webinar using the email associated with your Zoom Account.

**January 28, 2023**

**Mission Rivers District Celebration Lunch, Training & Worship**

**Williamsburg UMC  
500 Jamestown Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23185**

**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**\*More Details to come**

## Appointment Announcement

The Mission Rivers District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Charles F. Ledlum-Bates, is pleased to announce the appointment of Retired Elder, Rev. Dr. Clarence R. Brown, Jr., as the newest member of the district staff. Dr. Brown will serve as the District Director of Connectional Ministry (DDCM) alongside Rev. Dr. James 'Jim' O'Quinn. This position takes effect January 1, 2023.

Dr. Brown has over 30 years of experience in leading individuals, congregations, and organizations. From small membership rural to large membership urban churches; from college campuses to civic advocacy groups, Dr. Brown has consulted, mentored, and coached many to fruitful engagement toward identified goals.

His training from Georgia State University (BA); Gammon Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and Wesley Theological Seminary (D. Min.) and Coaching 4 Clergy have equipped him to journey with others through a framework of outcome-oriented accountability. It is in these life-giving, shared relationships — family, friends, associates, and colleagues — that he finds his joy, and the power for transformation is released.

Please help us receive Dr. Brown.

This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad!!

Mission Rivers is committed to helping Laity learn the skills needed to support their local church - or whatever level in which they are called! We plan our training based on the needs of our community, and we invite YOU to let us know how we can help you or your journey! We've put together a brief survey of needs, and invite all Laity to fill it out. Thank you for taking a few minutes to help us plan. Happy Advent! [Click Here for Survey](#)



**Lay Servant Academy** is excited to share its Winter Training that will take place on Friday and Saturday, **February 17th & 18th**. The course schedule features Michael Beck, originator of Fresh Expressions and a leader in cultivating movements. In addition to this course in **Planting Fresh Expressions**, additional courses include Fruitful Small Groups, Lay Pastoral Care-Giving, Basic Course, Spiritual Gifts, and Certified Lay Ministry Orientation. Courses are offered **in person only** at Shady Grove UMC Mechanicsville, VA. Registration and additional information can be found using this link: <https://vaumc.org/layservantacademy/>. For questions, you are welcome to email [Tianna Durbin](#), Director of Lay Servant Academy.



## CLM Module One

CERTIFIED LAY MINISTERS (CLM) COURSES Spring 2023

Zoom Sessions – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

March 19, April 16, May 21 2023

Cost: \$75

It is with great joy that the VAUMC announces the second cohort of Certified Lay Minister (CLM) training!

What is a CLM? This is a lay person who deepens their ability to serve in their local church and district as lay

leaders, preachers, connecting the church with mission in their community, parish nurses, children's or youth ministers, administrators, or congregational care ministers to name just a few! These lay people are dedicated to working beside the clergy as they answer the call to serve their churches and communities.

To become a CLM, the layperson must complete the BASIC and Spiritual Gifts courses through LSA. The individual then takes four modules of training, meets before DCOM for recommendation to the Board of Laity, and is approved by the Board of Laity. They require the support of their local church and the district as they work through the modules.

Module One will be offered March-May with 3 Zoom meetings and the rest of the work asynchronous. All coursework is online. Cost is \$75 and covers the cost of the CLM Module One training book. There are four modules in all, which will be offered this fall through fall 2024 to complete the entire training.

\*[Register for training at https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=724068&](https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=724068&)

The course will be taught by the Rev. Dr. Joanna Dietz and Mrs. Jenn Robinson O'Brien. For more infor-



### UMFS December Offering – supporting high-risk children

United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) is grateful for the faithful support of local churches in the Virginia Conference. Your generous gifts help children in foster care, children struggling with mental health challenges, and special education students get the support they need to thrive.

Your support through the UMFS offering has helped children like Mackenzie. Mackenzie experienced severe trauma as a young child. Her behavioral and mental health challenges continued to escalate. When she was 13, Mackenzie came to UMFS and began a healing journey that would change her life. Today she has a stable home and a job she enjoys. Mackenzie shared that "I never would have thought I'd be where I am today." Your support through the UMFS December offering will help more children like Mackenzie get the help they need to achieve a brighter future. You can access UMFS bulletin inserts, short videos, images, and more at [www.UMFS.org/church](http://www.UMFS.org/church). Please contact Jill Gaynor ([jgaynor@umfs.org](mailto:jgaynor@umfs.org) or 804-254-9463) with



The MRD has a Grief Support group. This group is open to anyone who has lost a loved one and would like some help and encouragement after the loss of spouse, child or other family member.

We meet on Wednesdays from 10:00am - 12:00 noon or Sundays from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm at

**Carmel United Methodist Church**

**5729 Sandy Point Road,**

**Kinsale, VA 22488**

Co-Led by Rev. Mark Lawrence and Rev. Rebecca Rumburg.

## Informational Resources on Disaffiliation

<https://vaumc.org/general-conference-2022/>

<https://www.wespath.org/about-wespath/wayforwardwespathfaq>

<https://vaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TJ-Presentation-5-21-22.pdf>

In 2023, there are three additional scheduled Annual Conferences for disaffiliation ratification under Para-



### 2023 Mission Trip El Salvador (UMVIM) Mission Trip

We are excited to reconnect with our International Methodist Mission Partner—The Evangelical Methodist Church in El Salvador. In 2023, we'll send a District team to continue our relationship-building and team specific mission project. Project will be determined by team and cost will be determined by project, flight costs and grant monies available.

If you are interested in learning more about this exciting mission opportunity, contact either Nancy Yarborough (nancyjane0405@aol.com) or Rev. Robin BeMiller (robinbemiller@vaumc.org), Team Co-Organizers.

**Project:** Determined by team ranging from construction of church or school, VBS, or food distribution

**Trip Cost:** TBD (previous year trips averaged \$750 with scholarship monies available)

**Trip Dates:** in the month of July

**Age of Participants:** 10-15 with parent, through adult

**Team Expectations:** Attend Team Organizing/Bonding Gatherings (via zoom), Actively participate in preparing for the trip, and most of all a Servants Heart.



### Who we are: Committed People of God

At our best, we are the spirit-filled, resilient, connected, missional, faithful, diverse, deeply rooted, committed, disciple-making, Jesus-seeking, generous, justice-seeking, world-changing people of God called The United Methodist Church.

In the Virginia Conference, we are:

- 1,146 churches
- 308,490 members
- 1,895 clergy

Our domestic and international mission reaches over 1,400,000 people.  
**Together, our mission and ministry is how we #BeUMC.**





# RED BIRD

a United Methodist Mission in Beverly, KY

Susanna WUMC in Ordinary, VA (Gloucester County) is going to Red Bird Mission Workcamp this next year. They have additional openings for those who would like to join this life changing mission journey. By joining the team, you will learn more about this 100-year-old mission serving the Appalachian community near Hazard, Ky. Allowing you as a participant to lead a trip in future years with your own community.

**When:** Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Where is Red Bird?**

Red Bird Mission Work Camp  
70 Queendale Center, Beverly, KY 40913

This is a year-round work opportunity for volunteers in mission and service-minded groups. Work Camp strives to provide home repair for low-income community residents and maintenance for Mission buildings and grounds. Some examples of work projects are roof replacement, small room additions, painting, building porches or ramps, and grounds keeping. Other light duty work is available such as cutting soup upc's, office work, craft and community store helpers, and recycling. A single fee covers the cost of each person's lodging, meals, and materials used.

### **How much does it cost?**

Total price per person is

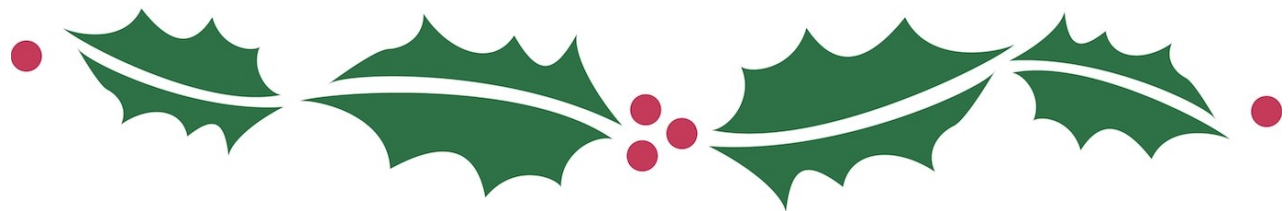
Adults (ages 10-100) \$425 (\$50 deposit plus two payments of \$187.50)

Youth (ages 6-9) \$212.50 (\$50 deposit plus two payments of \$81.25)

Children (ages 0-5) FREE

Part of the cost will be offset through our fund-raising activities.

Pray about going – cost and construction experience should not be an issue.



### **Dollar\$ and \$ense**

Dollars and Sense is published each month by the Virginia Conference Treasurer's office. It has helpful information especially for Finance Committees, Treasurers, Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committees, and clergy.



**Central UMC, 121 Church Street, Mathews, 23109** is looking for a treasurer to join the ministry (7.5 hours/week). For more information, please contact Pastor John at [johnchoi@vaumc.org](mailto:johnchoi@vaumc.org) or (804) 384-3521.

**Crooks Memorial UMC, 204 Cook Road, Yorktown, 23690** seeks a creative and experienced individual to serve as our part-time Music Director. Crooks Memorial has a long tradition of a vital music ministry, including an adult choir, periodic ensembles & groups, and special music during the year. This Director is responsible for the leadership of the music ministry in cooperation with the pastor. This position encompasses the choir director and pianist/organist (organ optional) for our one weekly worship service and special services and events, including weddings and funerals. For a more detailed job description, see attached. Salary commensurate with experience and education. To apply, please email a resume and cover letter to [office@crooksmemorialumc.org](mailto:office@crooksmemorialumc.org).

**Dahlgren UMC (DUMC), 17142 State Route 668, King George, 22485** has an immediate need for a Nursery Attendant meeting or able to meet VA State and Church Child Protection Policy requirements for paid child care staff.

This is a permanent, part-time, hourly-wage position to care for young children, ages infant-to-Pre-K, placed in the nursery during church services and special events.

Details of the requirements of the position are posted on the Church Web Site.

Questions or expressions of interest can also be directed to the Church Office by phone: 540-663-2230 or email to [office@dahlgrenumc.org](mailto:office@dahlgrenumc.org).

**Lower UMC, 120 Lower Church Road, Hartfield, 23071** (Middlesex County) is seeking a part-time music accompanist to play the piano and/or organ for our 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship services and weekly choir practices. Duties include working with the Pastor and Worship Team to enhance our worship services. This position may require attendance at Worship Team meetings. This position reports to the Pastor and SPR Committee. Salary is based upon qualifications and experience. For more information and to apply, please contact Lower United Methodist Church at [lumc@va.metrocast.net](mailto:lumc@va.metrocast.net) or 804-776-6250.

**Susanna Wesley UMC, 3900 George Washington Memorial Hwy., Ordinary (Hayes), VA 23072** is seeking a part-time church administrative assistant to provide support for our Pastor, worship service, and all church activities. The primary function of this role is to coordinate daily operations of the church office while providing a welcoming, confidential, friendly, and positive environment for all Susanna Wesley members and visitors. Prefer experience with Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher, PowerPoint and Google Docs, Drive and Gmail, and/or a willingness to learn. The position requires 20 hours per week (Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.). Please direct all inquiries to the office of the Pastor via email at [pastor@susannawesleyumc.org](mailto:pastor@susannawesleyumc.org) or call the church office 804-642-7551.

**Tabernacle UMC, 7310-A Old Plank Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22407** invites a Youth Director to join our exciting ministry staff. We are a mid-size church with lots of outreach and mission ministries. We are seeing wonderful return of members and visitors in person and in our live stream worship. We are seeking a spiritually and emotionally mature well organized self starter who also has strong communication skills. The

ministry is for a person who can help mold and guide our youth in grades 6th – 12th. The Youth Director reports to the Pastor and will work with a well developed Youth leadership team. The position is for 20 hours a week including Sunday worship, youth Sunday School, and Sunday after worship youth meetings. Our Youth also have gatherings with other area UM youth groups. For more information, see the complete job description at [www.tabumc.org](http://www.tabumc.org).

**White Stone UMC, 118 Methodist Church Road, White Stone, 22578** is seeking a pianist to play for a weekly choir rehearsal and a weekly Sunday worship service. Salary contingent on training and experience. Visit [Whitestoneumc.org](http://Whitestoneumc.org) to view the job description and complete the employment application.

**Williamsburg UMC, 500 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg 23185**, located next to the College of William and Mary, is seeking a full-time Director of Congregational Care (DCC). In collaboration with the Pastoral Team, Program Staff and Lay Leadership, the DCC will relate to and further develop lay-led congregational care ministries (including Stephen Ministry, Shepherd's Fold, CARE team, Congregational care, Memorial Garden, Respite Care, etc.). The DCC will oversee Older Adult Ministries with persons unable to regularly participate in the congregational life of the church (persons of all ages who are in long-term care, hospitalized or incapacitated). Applicants should have a bachelor's degree with emphasis in religious studies, pastoral counseling, or related field, and 3-plus years in pastoral care/counseling in a local church setting. Interested candidates should provide a cover letter and resume to [vacancy.wumc@gmail.com](mailto:vacancy.wumc@gmail.com)

**Williamsburg UMC** is seeking a full-time Family Ministry Coordinator (FMC). The FMC will



We are very excited to announce that UM Day at the General Assembly is happening on January 26, 2023 in Richmond. You can register at <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=719504&>.

If you aren't familiar with this incredible event we'd love to tell you all about it! Faithful Virginia United Methodists from across our great Commonwealth have gathered in Richmond in January for over 30 years to advocate for our neighbors. When we gather together we arrange visits with our Senators to discuss issues that are relevant to our faith with direction from our friends and partners at Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. If you are interested in putting your faith into action, register today.

You can learn more about the event and our schedule on the [VAUMC.org](http://VAUMC.org) website.

Registration is \$25 for early registration and \$10 for students. We can't wait to see you in Richmond!

Respectfully,

The Conference Legislative Network





**The Mission Rivers District  
Virginia Conference  
The United Methodist Church**

6515 George Washington Memorial  
Highway, Suite 203  
Yorktown, VA 23692  
(757) 596-3476 Telephone  
(757) 591-2866 Fax  
Website *under construction*

**Office Hours: Monday – Thursday**  
**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Friday**  
**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

The Rev. Charles F. Ledlum-Bates  
District Superintendent  
[MRDS@vaumc.org](mailto:MRDS@vaumc.org)

Lisa Jones  
Administrative Assistant  
[LisaJones@vaumc.org](mailto:LisaJones@vaumc.org)

Lynn Manley  
Administrative Assistant  
[LynnManley@vaumc.org](mailto:LynnManley@vaumc.org)



Happy December Mission Rivers,

Thank you for your comments and suggestions for the monthly newsletter. Like the new website, the newsletter continues to be a work in progress. If you have things you would like to have included in the next month's newsletter, please email them to me one week before the end of the month, at the very latest. If you have ideas, suggestions, criticism or complaints, please feel free to share. We're trying to make this as inclusive and informative as possible. Thanks for your continued support. Have a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas. Lisa [LisaJones@vaumc.org](mailto:LisaJones@vaumc.org)



**TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.**

*Matthew 1:22, ESV*