Mission Opportunities 2010-2011

for local churches in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church

Being a Faithful Disciple
“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

— John 13:34-35, NRSV

Being a faithful disciple means following the commands of Jesus. And Jesus commands us to love one another. How do we show that love? Jesus tells us to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, provide clothing and shelter to the poor, care for the sick and visit those in prison.

While it would be wonderful if we could reach out personally to everyone who needs our help, we know that is impossible. But when we join with other members of our congregation, put money into the offering plate, and participate in the carefully planned system of United Methodist mission and ministry, our gifts can stretch around the world, helping those in need and spreading the love of Jesus Christ, even in places where we can’t go.

**FIRST-MILE GIVING**

When you give to your local church, most of the money is used to support the ministries of your local congregation.*

A smaller portion funds regional ministries in the Virginia Conference (see Appendix 1).

Finally, a portion of your giving goes to the worldwide United Methodist Church (see Appendix 1) to support programs on a national and international level.

We share the costs of conference and worldwide church ministries, with each local church being responsible for contributing a fair portion or “apportionment.” This is the “First-Mile Giving” expected of all United Methodists.

The power of our apportionments — our collective First-Mile giving — is that it enables United Methodists to do together what no church, district or annual conference could do alone.

**SECOND-MILE GIVING**

But Jesus says we should do more than the basic requirement — we must walk the “second mile” as well. We can go beyond the primary gifts to the church and contribute “Second-Mile” gifts to specific programs, missionary work, and other programs through the Virginia Conference through Special Sunday offerings.

The Virginia Conference has set a goal for all of our faith communities to excel in worship, mission, stewardship, evangelism and discipleship. This Mission Opportunities booklet can help your congregation excel by walking the first mile — and then going the second mile as well. You can join other United Methodists and make a difference around the world.

* On average in the Virginia Conference, 87% of each individual’s contribution to a local church is retained in the local church and used for church operations, pastor salaries and benefits and capital improvements or mortgages. About 7% goes to apportionments or “first-mile giving” and 6% goes to mission giving beyond apportionments or “second-mile giving.”

---

**Guidelines for using this Mission Opportunities booklet**

This booklet is divided into sections, with each section offering a way for congregations to be engaged in mission. It’s a list of opportunities to help your church grow through mission:

- The first objective for each congregation is to pay all of apportionments in full (See Appendix 1). Advance specials and other mission opportunities depend in one way or another on the existence of the basic financial structure of The United Methodist Church, which is supported through the apportionments.
- After this first-level giving is in place, leaders in the church can then consider the various mission opportunities offered in each section. A wide variety of mission choices, from supporting local hunger-relief agencies to international mission projects, provide opportunities for a healthy spirit of giving in your congregation.
- Place a check mark in the bottom right corner of each section once you have selected an item from that section. That way, you can see at a glance the many kinds of mission outreach in which your congregation is involved.
- This booklet also can be used as an educational tool in a variety of settings — new member orientation, Sunday school class, youth fellowship or stewardship campaign — to understand how United Methodists are a connectional people at work in God’s mission around the world. For further study related to the Advance Specials listed in this booklet, visit the Web at [www.vaumc.org/Mission](http://www.vaumc.org/Mission) or [www.Advancinghope.org](http://www.Advancinghope.org).
- Have questions about anything in this booklet or like more copies? Call the conference Mission office at (804) 521-1100, ext. 144; or e-mail: <Mission@vaumc.org>.

Where to Send Advance Money — Make your check payable to Virginia United Methodist Conference. Write the ministry name and the Advance number on the check. Send to: Treasurer, Virginia Conference UMC, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058.

REMEMBER: 100% of your contribution goes to the Advance ministry you choose!
More than 300 United Methodist-supported missionaries offer their gifts of health care, teaching, evangelism, refugee assistance and congregational development in some 100 countries worldwide. They share the good news of Jesus Christ through who they are and what they are accomplishing for Christ. Through their work, these missionaries help others to realize and develop their own gifts for self-reliance and service to others. The 25 missionaries listed below have been chosen by the Virginia Conference Board of Global Ministries, so that you as a local church, individual or family or your youth or campus ministry can enter into a covenant relationship with one or more missionaries (see Appendix 2). For missionary bios or updates on new missionaries, visit the Web at <www.vaumc.org/Mission>.

Missionaries Supported by the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church

- **Cambodia** – Clara Biswas (Code #13952-Z)
  E-mail: clarabiswas@online.com.kh
- **Chile** – John Elmore (Code #13109Z)
  E-mail: jelmore56@yahoo.com
- **Democratic Republic of Congo** – Poto Valentine Shutsha (Code #14163Z)
  E-mail: ujacques1@juno.com
- **Democratic Republic of Congo** – Jacques Akasa Umembudi (Code #14020Z)
  E-mail: ujacques1@juno.com
- **Florida** – Kim King Torres (Code #982904-4)
  E-mail: kimktorres@msn.com
- **Kentucky** – Betsy Jack (Code #773938-5)
  E-mail: chuck.jack@redbirdconference.org
- **Kentucky** – Chuck Jack (Code #773938-5)
  E-mail: chuck.jack@redbirdconference.org
- **Liberia** – James Gray (Code #15150Z)
  E-mail: grayjk@vt.edu
- **Liberia** – Elma Jocson (Code #013980-2CZ)
  E-mail: dokelma@yahoo.com
- **Marion, Va.** – Linda Stransky (Code #803004)
  E-mail: fullcreel56@comcast.net
- **Marion, Va.** – Mark Stransky (Code #803003)
  E-mail: fullcreel56@comcast.net
- **Mississippi** – Steve Claris (Code #3020817)
  E-mail: n4spr@rev.net
- **Mozambique** – Jeremias Franca (Code #3019570)
  E-mail: health.missions@yahoo.com
- **Mozambique** – Dieudonne Karihano (Code #3019569)
  E-mail: dkarihano@yahoo.com
- **Mozambique** – Claudia Maia (Code #3019574)
  E-mail: cacaupc@gmail.com
- **Mozambique** – Eduardo Maia (Code #3019573)
  E-mail: eduardoreismaia@gmail.com
- **Roanoke, Va.** – Don Edwards (Code #982026)
  E-mail: donedwardsesq@gmail.com
- **Roanoke, Va.** – Deb Keeney (Code #982014)
  E-mail: lattedeb@cox.net
- **Roanoke, Va.** – Rebecca Parsons (Code #3021143)
  E-mail: beck12_98@yahoo.com
- **Rocky Mount, Va.** – Lisa Nichols (Code #982953)
  E-mail: henryfork@swva.net
- **South America** – Eduardo Campana (Code #15171Z)
  E-mail: educame1942@yahoo.com
- **South America** – Eluzinete “Luz” Pereira Garcia (Code #14208Z)
  E-mail: eluzinetegarcia@hotmail.com
- **Southeast Asia** – Charles Tran (Code #3021133)
  E-mail: hope4newlife@yahoo.com
- **Virginia** – Pat Watkins (Code #3020927)
  E-mail: caretakersofgodscreation@cavtel.net
- **West Virginia** – Judy Matheny (Code #982969-3)
  E-mail: jcmatheny@frontiernet.net
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, is working in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States. UMCOR’s mission, grounded in the teachings of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering – whether caused by natural or human-made disasters.

In times of crisis – earthquakes in Haiti, Chile and China; civil war in Sudan, Congo and Burundi; flooding in Tennessee; tornados in Oklahoma and Mississippi – UMCOR mobilizes emergency supplies, fresh water and temporary shelter to stricken areas, and then stays as long as it takes to implement long-term recovery. UMCOR workers are known all over the globe for their compassion, leadership, expertise and guidance in recovery efforts.

An Example of UMCOR’s work in Haiti: UMCOR and United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) have been working closely and effectively together to channel both volunteers and funds to rebuild what the earthquake destroyed or damaged. More than 3,000 volunteers have signed up through UMVIM to go personally to help, and more than $37.2 million has been given through UMCOR. UMVIM teams began arriving in Haiti in May, and now 52 teams are scheduled for 2010. The Rev. Mike Willis coordinates with the Methodist Church of Haiti to ensure that rebuilding plans have been approved, that building materials are in place and that teams arrive with $3,500 to cover part of building costs and to pay wages for two Haitians for each team member who work together in rebuilding. UMCOR matches each UMVIM team’s $3,500.

UMCOR funds the positions of Mike Willis, projects coordinator, and Doug Nagle, hospitality and finances coordinator, both based in Haiti, and Susan Meister, who is based in the United States and manages the calendar to schedule teams with the five UMVIM jurisdictional coordinators. This close coordination ensures that projects not only are started but also completed as efficiently as possible, while involving volunteers from all five UMC jurisdictions.

UMCOR also funds two liaison positions to coordinate all work between Methodist Church of Haiti (MCH) and UMCOR’s Haiti office. In addition, UMCOR has leveraged its funds to secure additional funds to build 27 transition schools, equip classrooms with school furniture, construct 18 latrines and provide facilities for sanitation and drinking water in the Coreil and Tabarre Issa transition camps, where Haitians without homes are now living. UMCOR also hopes that some of your gifts will be matched by $5 million from the American Red Cross to fund 1,300 transitional shelters and latrines and provide cross-cutting community-driven services. UMCOR also has staff working on helping persons to find ways to earn a livelihood in this changed situation.

Jim Gulley continues his work with the Methodist Church of Haiti for longer-term development. The MCH has had programs in agriculture, health, micro-credit, literacy, education and hot lunch programs in more than 70 of their 102 schools that the Methodists operate. Schools are also the focal point of providing children with clean drinking water through the installation of bio-sand filters, accompanied by student, teacher and principal training in hygiene and sanitation. These low-cost filters are produced using locally available materials and provide Haitians with employment.

UMCOR receives no funds from World Service or any of your apportionment payments. All UMCOR operating costs are covered by gifts made to the “One Great Hour of Sharing” Special Sunday offering (observed on the fourth Sunday of Lent). This Special Sunday offering ensures that 100 percent of every gift you make to a specific project will go directly to help the people in need. For more information on the work of UMCOR, visit the Web at <www.umcor.org>.
Congregations in the Virginia Conference have developed relationships with communities of faith around the globe. Our Initiatives of Hope effort has focused on partnerships with Brazil and Mozambique. The conference has a long history of involvement with developing United Methodist churches and seminaries in Russia. Virginia churches also regularly send mission teams to Cuba, the Philippines, Central and South America, Africa and the Caribbean.

The United Methodist Church is actively involved in more than 125 countries. Our church’s focus on fighting poverty is an important element in this work, and so is the focus on global health. In April, the denomination kicked off “Imagine No Malaria,” an expansion of the Nothing But Nets program that seeks not just to protect people from contracting malaria, but to eradicate the deadly disease entirely.

The Advance gives individual donors and churches a direct connection with ministries around the world that are transforming lives in tangible, Christlike ways. By giving to the Advance, you ensure that 100 percent of your gift goes to the mission or ministry that you designate. These international Advance Specials have been selected by the conference leadership for special attention this year:

1. **Global: Sustainable Agriculture**: Training in environmentally friendly and technologically appropriate practices in farming and off-farming activities to small-scale farmers to improve their livelihoods. (982188)
2. **Haiti: Solar Oven Project**: Provides solar ovens as well as training and seminars in their use. (418812)
3. **Guatemala: Highland Support Project**: Works with marginalized indigenous women and communities in Guatemala in the building of stoves and planting trees. (15022A)
4. **Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya: ZOE**: To link hearts and resources in the United States with orphans and vulnerable children suffering in the wake of the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. (982023)
5. **Mexico: Give Ye Them To Eat**: Strengthens the capabilities of marginalized people and communities to meet their own basic needs and to assist them in determining and sustaining a just and integrated development process. (07629A)
6. **Mozambique: Evangelization and Church Expansion Ministry**: Train and equip evangelists, lay and clergy leaders, and provide basic Christian educational materials and resources. (12580A)
7. **Community-Based Wholistic Health: Latin America and Caribbean**: Providing training for and implementing a cohesive, self-sustainable health program. (3026020)
8. **Ghana Water Projects**: To provide improved water source to targeted communities, thus reducing risk of water-borne diseases, improving quality of life and relieving women and girls of long treks to fetch water. (3020588)
9. **Macedonia: Macedonia In Mission Together**: Developing leaders and working with the poor, orphaned and disabled. (00220A)
10. **Chile: Family Center**: Preventing domestic abuse through counseling, workshops for women and a network of organizations. (14800A)
11. **Colombia: Church Buildings for the Colombian Methodist Church**: Funding to purchase land and build a parsonage and church to welcome the community. (3020764)
12. **Brazil: Ministry with Children, Shade and Fresh Water Project**: Outreach to children who are hungry, uneducated and endangered by life on the streets. (11580A)
13. **Russia Initiative**: Funding for programs and United Methodist pastors’ salaries in Stavropol and Pyatigorsk. (660-49000)
14. **Uganda: The Humble Place Program**: Food, school fees, salaries, maintenance, transportation and a poultry project. (14191A)
15. **Sierra Leone: Child Rescue Center Program**: Operation of a residential facility and community outreach program for orphaned children and those impacted by poverty. (14377A)
16. **Cuba: Methodist Christian Home, Havana**: A home for retired Cuban Christians. (11635A)
17. **Congo: Diengenga Trade School, Scholarships**: Scholarships to enable people from villages devastated by war to become artisans and craftpersons. (15106B)
18. **Sudan: Sudan Emergency**: To assist the people of Sudan in meeting acute human needs due to drought, locust invasion, civil strife and floods. Funds will be used to provide food relief, medical assistance, clothing, blankets and shelter. (184385)
19. **Africa: Aviation**: Aging and inefficient aircraft need to be replaced in order to continue and expand ministries on the African continent. (3019626)
20. **Children, Poverty and Violence**: Raising awareness, training advocates and assisting children harmed by poverty and exploitation. (14680A)
21. **Anti-Human Trafficking**: Working with those ensnared in trafficking of humans for commercial and sexual exploitation. (333815)
22. **The Medicine Box**: Essential medicines and medical supplies for clinics and hospitals in countries that have experienced sudden natural disasters. (982630)
23. **Zimbabwe: AIDS Orphans Trust**: Daily necessities, school fees and moral and spiritual support for children orphaned by AIDS. (982842)

For more information about these projects, visit the conference Web site at <www.vaumc.org/Mission>.
Connecting someone with the recognition of God’s love in their life is a vital part of being Jesus’ disciple. Throughout our lives a variety of moments occur when we can share God’s grace with people. We have a partner in this mission through the General Board of Global Ministries national mission projects that provide each of us a way to connect with people around the nation in ways we cannot do alone. The “Caring Connection” of National Missions Institutions related to the General Board of Global Ministries includes 103 institutions located across the United States such as community centers, schools, colleges, health care facilities and women’s residences. These institutions offer a variety of services to people in spiritual and physical need. Being a faithful disciple is about developing loving, caring relationships with those in need. All of these ministries represent The United Methodist Church at work within the Reign of God bringing health and wholeness to those who are in need.

National Ministries

1. USA: Farming for Churches: Supplying soup kitchens with fresh produce through an interfaith hunger-relief organization………………..(#3021060)
2. North Carolina: Robeson County Church and Community Center: Seeks to involve people across cultural, racial, class and denominational barriers in partnership with each other to address social needs and to move in Christ’s name toward solutions. ………………………………………………………………………………. (#791742)
3. District of Columbia: Christ House: A recovery facility that provides for the physical and emotional needs of homeless men and women. ………………………………………………………………………………. (#381215)
5. Tennessee: Jubilee Project, Inc., Sneedville: Leadership development and community organizing in a poverty area. ………………………………………………………………………………. (#781350)
6. Florida: Cornerstone Family Ministries: Ministries for needy infants, children and youth……………………………………………………………. (#751202)
8. Kentucky: Henderson Settlement, Frakes: Programs for disadvantaged teenagers, parents and the elderly. …(#773365)
9. National Challenge Fund for Hispanic/Latino Ministries: Lay missioners, education, outreach and evangelism. (#882620)
10. South Dakota: Tree of Life Ministry: A ministry with Native Americans at the Rosebud and Crow Creek Reservations. ………………………………………………………………………………. (#123615)
12. USA: Justice for Our Neighbors Immigration Ministry: Engaging congregations to welcome immigrants and provide free, quality immigration legal services. ………………………………………………………………………………. (#901285)
13. Southeastern Jurisdiction: Volunteers In Mission: Assists those offering their skills in this country and abroad. ..(#901875)
14. USA: Response and Recovery to Natural Disaster: Responds to emergencies such as tornadoes and flooding throughout the United States. ………………………………………………………………………………. (#901670)

For more information about these projects, visit the conference Web site at <www.vaumc.org/Mission>. 

(Above) A homeless man on the streets can find assistance at the Christ House in Washington, D.C., a recovery facility that provides for the physical and emotional needs of homeless men and women.

(Left) A mother and her young daughter who live in rural Appalachia get a check-up and a “bear hug” at the Red Bird Mission clinic located in Beverly, Ky.
Virginians have the opportunity to swim at the YMCA through the United Methodist Community Outreach Program. Volunteers from Urban Ministries of Richmond’s Shalom Farms work together with students from Blue Sky Fund Explorers, a scholarship program aimed at getting inner-city youth into the great outdoors. Shalom Farms is located in Goochland County.

Virginia Conference Advance Specials

1. Richmond: Embrace Richmond: Working to prevent and end homelessness by equipping, empowering and engaging people of faith in hands-on ministry with those living on the edge.
   - Web site: www.embracerichmond

2. Lexington: Crossroads College Ministry: Connecting college students to God and their community through weekly study, worship and mission.
   - Web site: www.lexumcm.com

3. Christiansburg: Summer Project Youth (SPY): Empowering youth leadership as they engage in relational community mission such as home winterization.
   - Web site: www.project-spy.com

4. Rocky Mount: Henry Fork Service Center: A multipurpose mission outreach providing a Christian presence and addressing the needs of an economically deprived community in Franklin County. The Center is a place where children, youth and adults can spend creative time and find a helping hand and a listening ear.
   - Web site: www.henryfork.org/hfsc

5. Roanoke: United Methodist Community Outreach Program: A direct-service provider for children and youth of poverty in inner-city Roanoke. It addresses basic needs of poverty such as food and clothing, and provides a safe environment for children and youth in dealing with issues of violence, racism, drug and alcohol abuse.
   - E-mail: domaha@cox.net

6. Virginia Conference Disaster Response and Recovery: Coordinates preparation, response and recovery in the conference during times of disaster. This addresses the personnel needed, equipment required and Christian witness that is desired in such situations.
   - E-mail: umdpr@cox.net

7. Caretakers of God’s Creation: Implementing creation care ministry teams in local churches throughout the conference. To equip, empower and resource United Methodists to live out their faith by caring for and healing God’s creation.
   - E-mail: caretakersofgodscreation@cavetel.net

   - E-mail: esdsumc@verizon.net

   - E-mail: mreal@forisumc.org

    - Web site: www.eslim.org

    - Web site: www.justneighbors.org

12. UM Urban Ministries of Richmond/Shalom Farms: Working to assure food security, educational supports and faith development in Richmond primarily through the development of an organic farm and related community and faith-based programming.
    - Web site: www.umumr.org

13. Teens Opposing Poverty, Inc. (TOPS): Provides opportunities for youth to serve and share Christ to the poor and homeless.
    - Web site: www.teensopposingpoverty.org

14. Alexandria: Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church: This ministry meets the needs of the poor through programs such as food, clothing, emergency assistance, after-school care and others. The programs are run by volunteers.
    - Web site: www.risinghopeumc.org

15. Six City of St. Andrew: Provides direct relief to the hungry through three main programs: Gleaning Network, Potato Project and Harvest of Hope education retreat program. The ministries provide unique opportunities for United Methodists to live their faith as disciples of Jesus Christ.
    - E-mail: sosauas@endhunger.org

    - Web site: www.projectcrossroads.org

*Indicates ministries that are receiving conference support from 2010 Special Program Grants of Virginia (see Appendix 3)

For more information about these Virginia Conference Advance Specials, visit the conference Web site at <www.vaumc.org/Mission>.
InItIatIves of Hope (Designated Virginia Conference Mission priorities)

Bishop Robert Schnase, in his book *Cultivating Fruitfulness*, says, “Churches that practice risk-taking mission and service value engagement and long-term relationship. They measure the impact of their work in lives changed rather than in money sent or buildings constructed.

Such congregations make sure the people they serve feel respected, confident, and blessed, not dependent or helpless or indebted. They do mission with people of other cultures, not ministry to them. People come first, and Christ’s love for people binds them to one another and to their task.”

Initiatives of Hope (IOH), the primary mission focus of Virginia Conference churches, seeks to create a partnership based on God’s hope and love in two special areas of our world — Mozambique and Brazil. Churches across Virginia are reaching out to do what any one church alone cannot do on its own.

The work we do through Initiatives of Hope doesn’t just change the lives of those we go to serve. It changes our lives, too. When we engage in risk-taking mission and service, we begin to see the world through the eyes of those we go to serve.

Our partnership is aimed at providing resources that our partner conferences can sustain long into the future:

- Church leadership training for clergy and lay leaders of the United Methodist Church of Mozambique;
- Early childhood intervention through the Shade & Fresh Water program in cities across Brazil;
- Medical and dental care through the United Methodist medical boat on the Amazon in Brazil and at Chicuque Rural Hospital in Mozambique.

Learn
- Go to the IOH Web page to learn more about our partnerships with Brazil and Mozambique — www.vaumc.org/Mission, click on “Initiatives of Hope.”
- Review and use the IOH mission worship resources found at www.vaumc.org/Mission, click on “Initiatives of Hope.”
- Invite an UMVIM volunteer who has been to Mozambique or Brazil to come to a mission event at your church.
- Host a Brazilian or Mozambican missionary
- Plan a Mission Awareness event at your church

Go
- Participate on a United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) team to Brazil or Mozambique

Give
- Support the Annual Conference offering for Initiatives of Hope
- Support the Advance projects related to our partner ministries in Brazil and Mozambique
- Support individuals and teams that are going as short-term missionaries to serve in Brazil and Mozambique
- Enter into a covenant relationship (see Appendix 2) with a missionary from Brazil or Mozambique

Pray
- For the people of Mozambique and Brazil
- For the Virginia Conference UMVIM teams to Brazil and Mozambique
- For God to guide you in how you might serve

More information about IOH and how you can help can be found on the Web at www.vaumc.org/Mission, or contact the conference Mission office at 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1180, ext. 144; e-mail mission@vaumc.org.
APPELLATIONS: First-Mile Giving

Virginia Conference Ministries

“We envision faith communities where all God’s people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world.”

Virginia Conference Vision Statement

WELCOMED AT TABLE ........................................................................... $1,868,716

The Virginia Conference has committed to establish 250 new faith communities in the next 30 years and strengthen and revitalize existing congregations, welcoming more people to Jesus’ table of fellowship.

The 5 Talents program offers Pathway to the table, a more complete curriculum and experience.

The conference also supports new church start-up funds.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND .......................................................$1,096,942

The New Church Leadership Institute trains new church pastors; “Just-In-Time” training is offered pastors and spouses appointed to start new churches; Mentoring and peer-to-peer learning is provided for new church planters; and the 2011 budget includes start-up funding for new faith communities.

Many other grants, programs and training help churches become more welcoming, especially to racial and ethnic minorities, those with disabilities, women and children. The Church Extension and Development Fund provides grants for new churches, relocation, expansion, or merging churches; district mission and church extension work; and ethnic local church building and programs.

NURTURED AND TRANSFORMED ..................................................$2,716,751

The conference provides numerous resources to help local churches nurture and transform children, youth, young adults, singles, older adults, men and women. Among them, the School for Children’s Ministries and Safe Sanctuaries training equip local churches in ministry to and with children and their families.

Camp Rainbow offers persons with disabilities recreation and spiritual development. All God’s Children camp provides fellowship, love and care to children whose mothers are in prison.

The conference supports 19 Church Ministries and provides funding assistance to Virginia United Methodist Church District Assembly Center in Blackstone where training events, retreats, spiritual development and a variety of workshops and meetings are held throughout the year.

The Educational Fund provides support to five Virginia Conference church-related colleges and one preparatory school, including scholarship assistance for United Methodist students attending these schools.

CHRIST TO OTHERS IN THE WORLD .................................................$929,009

The conference supports those in need in many ways, including the Initiatives of Hope partnership with the church in Mozambique and Brazil, Volunteers in Mission leader training, Disaster Response coordination, Voices of Youth mission choir, social and economic justice advocacy, Caretakers of God’s Creation work, and criminal justice and mercy ministries.

Awakening and Helping Hands events offer education and mission experiences for youth and children. The School of Christian Mission helps women, youth and children learn about being partners in God’s global mission.

Our support allows Chaplain Service of Virginia to provide chaplains in 30 state prisons and four juvenile correctional facilities and Industrial and Commercial Ministries to provide chaplains in workplaces across the state.

We help feed the hungry and are in ministry with the poor through funding for Society of St. Andrew, Stop Hunger Now and the Appalachian Ministry Network.

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT ..................................................................$18,171,465

District Superintendents’ Fund pays salaries, pensions, benefits, travel and continuing education for 18 district superintendents. .......................................................$2,540,000

Equitable Compensation Fund provides pastor salary assistance when a church is unable to meet the annual conference’s minimum compensation requirements.

Retirees, Disabled, and Widow Fund provides funding for the unfunded portion of the pension plan for ministers’ service years prior to 1982 and medical benefits for retired and disabled ministers and widows...........$5,997,912

Conference Health Plan provides the employer share of medical care costs for active pastors. .................................................................$8,451,813

Clergy Support, Administration provides clergy family counseling, candidate evaluation, clergy families in transition, sexual ethics response teams, Board of Ordained Ministry administration and Bishop’s Assistant...$627,133

ADMINISTRATION ...........................................................................$1,392,113

The budget includes support for the conference treasurer’s office, conference technology systems, Annual Conference session, per diem for retired pastors to attend Annual Conference, Conference Journal and Directory of the Ministry, ministers’ liability insurance for all pastors under appointment, conference toll-free telephone number, and Wesley Foundation maintenance.

TOTAL — Virginia Conference Ministries ........................................$25,023,447

Worldwide United Methodist Church Ministries

WORLD SERVICE FUND .................................................................$3,442,525

The World Service Fund provides the basic support for most of the worldwide mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church. This fund supports the work of missionaries serving around the world, the establishment of new churches, anti-hunger projects, social justice advocacy, and resources for local church work with children, youth, singles, students, disabled and aging persons. It also provides essential support for the programs and administration of most of the general agencies of the United Methodist Church.

The World Service apportionment represents the minimum needs of the general agencies of the Church. Payment in full of these apportionments by local church and annual conferences is the first beneficiary requirement of the 1992 Book of Discipline (Par. 812). As United Methodists, our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. One way is by supporting the World Service Fund.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND .......................................................$1,096,942

Men and women choose ordained ministry because God calls them. The Ministerial Education Fund is our way to help them answer that divine call.

Men and women choose ordained ministry because God calls them. The Ministerial Education Fund is our way to help them answer that divine call.

The conference provides numerous resources to help local churches nurture and transform children, youth, young adults, singles, older adults, men and women. Among them, the School for Children’s Ministries and Safe Sanctuaries training equip local churches in ministry to and with children and their families.

Camp Rainbow offers persons with disabilities recreation and spiritual development. All God’s Children camp provides fellowship, love and care to children whose mothers are in prison.

The conference supports 19 Church Ministries and provides funding assistance to Virginia United Methodist Church District Assembly Center in Blackstone where training events, retreats, spiritual development and a variety of workshops and meetings are held throughout the year.

The Educational Fund provides support to five Virginia Conference church-related colleges and one preparatory school, including scholarship assistance for United Methodist students attending these schools.

CHRIST TO OTHERS IN THE WORLD .................................................$929,009

The conference supports those in need in many ways, including the Initiatives of Hope partnership with the church in Mozambique and Brazil, Volunteers in Mission leader training, Disaster Response coordination, Voices of Youth mission choir, social and economic justice advocacy, Caretakers of God’s Creation work, and criminal justice and mercy ministries.

Awakening and Helping Hands events offer education and mission experiences for youth and children. The School of Christian Mission helps women, youth and children learn about being partners in God’s global mission.

Our support allows Chaplain Service of Virginia to provide chaplains in 30 state prisons and four juvenile correctional facilities and Industrial and Commercial Ministries to provide chaplains in workplaces across the state.

We help feed the hungry and are in ministry with the poor through funding for Society of St. Andrew, Stop Hunger Now and the Appalachian Ministry Network.

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT ..................................................................$18,171,465

District Superintendents’ Fund pays salaries, pensions, benefits, travel and continuing education for 18 district superintendents. .......................................................$2,540,000

Equitable Compensation Fund provides pastor salary assistance when a church is unable to meet the annual conference’s minimum compensation requirements.

Retirees, Disabled, and Widow Fund provides funding for the unfunded portion of the pension plan for ministers’ service years prior to 1982 and medical benefits for retired and disabled ministers and widows...........$5,997,912

Conference Health Plan provides the employer share of medical care costs for active pastors. .................................................................$8,451,813

Clergy Support, Administration provides clergy family counseling, candidate evaluation, clergy families in transition, sexual ethics response teams, Board of Ordained Ministry administration and Bishop’s Assistant...$627,133

ADMINISTRATION ...........................................................................$1,392,113

The budget includes support for the conference treasurer’s office, conference technology systems, Annual Conference session, per diem for retired pastors to attend Annual Conference, Conference Journal and Directory of the Ministry, ministers’ liability insurance for all pastors under appointment, conference toll-free telephone number, and Wesley Foundation maintenance.

TOTAL — Virginia Conference Ministries ........................................$25,023,447

AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND ...............................................................$97,927

This vital fund supports the only United Methodist-related, degree-granting university on the continent of Africa — serving students from 21 countries, all across the continent of Africa. Africa University provides higher education of excellent quality, enriched with Christian values, for both men and women, developing visionary leaders of tomorrow.

GENERAL CONNECTIONAL FUND .....................................................$604,805

This combines the General Administration Fund from the general church and the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) Mission and Ministry Fund. The General Administration Fund finances general church administrative activities, including General Conference (the law-making body of the church); Judicial Council which adjudicates questions of church law; General Council on Finance and Administration that coordinates and administers the finances of the church and safeguards the denomination’s legal interests and rights; and maintenance of United Methodism’s official documents and historical artifacts, landmarks and sites. This money also supports SEJ administration plus program ministries of the jurisdiction.

TOTAL — Worldwide UM Church apportionment..........................$6,676,553

In the shaded box below, “Your Local Church Share” is that portion of your church budget meant for others. The amount is unique to each congregation, so you may want to ask your pastor to fill in the number. This represents your “first-mile” in giving to mission and ministry beyond your local church.

Total Worldwide and Virginia Conference Apportionments $31,700,000

Your Local Church Share $9,000

Apportionment Formula –

For more information about apportionsments and how they are calculated, contact the conference business office at 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 109; e-mail <DavidDommisse@vaumc.org>; or visit the Web at <www.vaumc.org>, and click on “Conference Offices >> Business Office.”
You can support a United Methodist missionary by entering into a covenant relationship with one or more General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) missionaries. A covenant relationship is two-fold: you provide financial support and pray for and learn about a particular missionary’s work. In return, the missionary prays for and communicates with you. This relationship can help inspire you to become more committed to God’s mission in our world through the missionary outreach of The United Methodist Church. Prayerfully consider entering into a covenant relationship with a missionary.

There are three types of covenant relationships. You can enter into a covenant relationship with a missionary if you are:
1) a Local Church
2) an Individual or Family
3) a Youth Ministry or Campus Ministry

How does my Local Church enter a Covenant Relationship?

• Select a missionary to support from those listed on the MISSIONARY page of this booklet.
• Determine the level of financial commitment:
  a) Annual gift of $2,500 OR
  b) Annual gift of $5 per congregational member.
• Complete the Covenant Relationship Form which is found on the Web at www.vaumc.org/Mission, click on “Missionaries >> Local Church Covenant >> Local Church Covenant Relationship Form.”
• E-mail the completed form to the Office of Mission as directed on the form.

How do I as an Individual or Family enter a Covenant Relationship?

• Select a missionary to support from those listed on the MISSIONARY page of this booklet.
• Commit to an annual gift of $500 per Individual or Family.
• Complete the Covenant Relationship Form which is found on the Web at www.vaumc.org/Mission, click on “Missionaries >> Individual Covenant >> Individual Covenant Relationship Form.”
• E-mail the completed form to the Office of Mission as directed on the form.

How does my Youth Ministry or Campus Ministry enter a Covenant Relationship?

You can enter into a covenant relationship with a US-2 or Mission Intern. All of the US-2 and Mission Intern missionaries are young adults and have been chosen by the General Board of Global Ministries. Your youth group can enter into a covenant relationship with one of these young adult missionaries.

• Choose a missionary from either the US-2 list or Mission Intern list found on the Web at www.vaumc.org/Mission, click on “Missionaries >> Youth/Campus Ministry Covenant >> Covenant Relationship Form.”
• Commit to an annual gift of $5 per youth.
• Complete the Covenant Relationship Form which is found on the Web at www.vaumc.org/Mission, click on “Missionaries >> Youth/Campus Ministry Covenant >> Covenant Relationship Form.”
• E-mail the completed form to the Office of Mission as directed on the form.

US-2 PROGRAM

The US-2 Program is a Christian leadership development experience through peace with justice missions for young adults. This two-year opportunity to serve in the United States encourages its participants to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ while learning from and serving with community based organizations. US-2s will boldly re-examine their roles and participation in society as they struggle with hunger, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, illiteracy, children at risk, substance abuse, racism, domestic violence and inadequate health care.

Hannah Hanson is a Mission Intern serving as SHADE Orphan Care Facilitator, Cape Town, South Africa. E-mail: hannahhanson@gmail.com

YOUNG ADULT MISSION INTERN PROGRAM

The Mission Intern Program is a Christian leadership development and social justice opportunity for young adults. The three-year program is divided into a 16-month international work/study assignment and a 16-month action/education assignment in one’s own country. It is an opportunity for young people to hear the prophetic voice of communities and individuals around the world who are working for systemic change and to apply that experiential learning to their home context. The program encourages participants to learn about and live out the transformative gospel of Jesus Christ while working as grassroots organizers and/or advocates in areas of conflict resolution, peace, education, environmental justice, economic development, indigenous rights and women’s and children’s issues.

Audio Interviews With Missionaries:


The Missionary Voice:
Podcasts of United Methodist missionaries

Heather and Hannah (both from Virginia) are two of the many US-2s and Mission Interns with whom your youth group can be in a covenant relationship. Learn all about their dedicated work in mission service on the Web.
United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) is a hands-on ministry where everyone has something to offer. UMVIM is “Christian Love in Action.” UMVIM teams go around the world doing everything from construction to teaching, from offering medicines to cleaning up debris. In Brazil, the Shade and Fresh Water project gives teams an opportunity to teach street children as well as repair homes or churches in the area. Teams offer education, fellowship, medicine, love and much more. The greatest gift that any team can offer is “relationship.” This relationship shows the people to whom we are visiting that the Lord cares for them and loves them as much as the Lord loves and cares for us. Together, visitors and hosts share a love of the Lord that cannot be found anywhere else.

The Lord has blessed you. You can share that blessing on an UMVIM team. There are just three requirements to be a Virginia Conference UMVIM team: have a team leader that has been to conference training, be registered with the Southeastern Jurisdiction UMVIM Office, and be insured. You can get insurance and register at www.umvim.org, and you can get training at any of the four or five training events held across the conference throughout the year.

TEAMS

What is required to have a VIM team from your church?

The Virginia Conference requires VIM teams to take place in order to have a VIM team from your church. First you must have a team leader. The team leader must be trained by the conference coordinator of UMVIM. However, before someone takes the training, they should have participated on a mission trip. The team leader then must register the team with the Southeastern Jurisdiction Office of UMVIM (www.umvim.org) and be insured. You can get the insurance through the UMVIM office.

How do you start a team?

You will need to decide what you plan to do (construction, educational, medical, etc.), where you are going, when you are leaving and when you are returning, as well as how much it will cost. To get the answers to these questions, you will need to do some research. The list of Approved Sites are on the Southeastern Jurisdiction UMVIM Web site, www.umvim.org. (Approved sites are those places that have invited teams to assist in the project and been approved by the host bishop.) Select a project by clicking on “National” or “International” to get more information. Then make contact with the “host” and make arrangements for your trip.

Now that you have this information, go to your Outreach Chairperson as well as your pastor for support. Next go to the Administrative Council for approval as a church mission project.

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

Individual volunteers, either single or as married couples, are needed for short-term projects. The usual length of service is from two months to two years. The individual volunteer is expected to cover the cost of transportation and personal expenses in the place of assignment. Because they are viewed as missionaries by the host community, the individual volunteer should possess a growing Christian faith and understanding of mission. Strong interpersonal and cross-cultural skills are of great benefit.

2010 Special Program Grants to Local Churches/Faith Groups Reaching Out into Communities — Because the mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, the Virginia Conference has long seen the need to assist churches which are reaching out into their communities. This year the Common Table, Committees on Ethnic Local Church Concerns, and United Methodist Women have combined their resources, including a designated portion of the Church Extension Apportionment, to assist in this work. A total of $117,500 will be distributed to the mission projects listed on this page. Descriptions of these projects can be found on the Web at www.vaumc.org/specialprogramgrants. For more information about a specific project, or how you can assist, contact the appropriate persons listed below; or call Bev Myers in the conference Director of Connectional Ministries office at (804) 521-1100, ext. 134, or e-mail <B Meyers@vaumc.org>.

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

Rising Hope UM Mission Church: Deborah Lloyd Allers, (703/360-1976); <dallers@risinghopeumc.org>.

ARLINGTON DISTRICT

Crossroads UMC: Flor Norris, (703/229-5100, ext. 131); <flor@crossroadsumc.org>.

Grace Ministries: Martha Real, (703/793-0026); <mreal@florisumc.org>.

ASHLAND DISTRICT

Lakeside UMC Neighborhood Outreach: Nancy Robinson, (804/873-1487); <nancyrob975@cs.com>.

DANVILLE DISTRICT

Henry Fork Service Center: Lisa Nichols, (540/483-2819); <henryforkcenter@cs.com>.

EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT

Eastern Shore UMC Hispanic Ministry: Carmen R. Colona, (757/787-3332, 757/787-2309); <colona@verizon.net>.

NORFOLK DISTRICT

Thalia UMC TGIF Breakfast Club: Cathy Sorrell, (757/340-5015); <ThaliaUUMC@yahoo.com>.

PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT

Mission Ministries: C. Crockett Morris, (804/834-3151; 804/218-1315); <MrGaryell@aol.com>.

RICHMOND DISTRICT

Black Methodists for Church Renewal: Willard H. Douglas, (804/321-4222); <Douglas546@aol.com>.

Emmaus UMC Ministry for Handicapped and North Korean Refugees: Yunho Eo, Charlie Kang, (804/335-8392, 804/272-5831); <yunhoeo@hotmail.com>, <eumcsh@hotmail.com>.

Kids’ Club (Central UMC): Sandy Harmon, (804/232-0334 or 804/320-0894); <sandy@rightdumb.com>.

Sherborne Food Pantry: Sandy Sahnow, (804/559-0705 or 804/921-2187); <sahnows@comcast.net>.

ROANOKE DISTRICT

Shalom Zone: Grace Ministries: Nancy Dickson, (540/798-2791); <ndickson@comcast.net>.

UMC Community Outreach Program of Roanoke: Deb Keeny, (540/324-3103); <dohama@cox.net>.

WEST END UMC: David Tanner, (540/344-2026); <dttanner@aol.com>.

STAUNTON DISTRICT

Casa de Amistad (Basic UMC): Jackie King, (540/333-0090); <casadaanistad@netele.net>.
UmCOR Kits

The contents of each of these “starter sets” are such simple, small items—pencils, tablets, latex gloves—but having or not having them can make a world of difference. That’s why School, Health, Baby/Layette and Birthing Kits are among the items most requested by our overseas partners each year. The need is great, and we can never have too many on hand. Collecting materials for kits is a great group hands-on project for young and old alike. The full list of additional UmCOR kits is available at: http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/.

Important Packing and Shipping Instructions for UmCOR Kits:

- All items included in kits must be NEW items and should be packed in boxes with only one type of kit in each box. The contents should be clearly written on the outside or inside of the box.
- All kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of emergency situations.
- Because of strict rules in other countries, kits must contain only the requested items—nothing more.
- Do not include any money, personal notes, or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.
- Check one or two packing lists: one for your records and one to put outside the box with the shipping label.

Kits may be brought to Annual Conference in June or shipped prepaid to: UmCOR Sager Brown Depot, P.O. Box 850, 131 Sager Brown Rd., Baldwin, LA 70514-0850.

Monetary donations include:
- $1.00 per kit for processing and shipping
- $1.00 per kit for processing and shipping
- $12 for UmCOR to provide a health kit
- $35 for UmCOR to provide a baby/layette kit
- $5 for UmCOR to provide a birthing kit

Include ALL monetary donations on one check, payable to: Virginia United Methodist Conference (earmarked for “UmCOR Kits - Code 9801440”) and send to: Treasurer, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058

*For kits brought to Annual Conference, checks will be accepted at the collection site. (DO NOT PACK MONETARY DONATIONS IN BOXES WITH KITS!)

To learn about other UmCOR kits, cleaning buckets, and medicine boxes that are needed throughout the world, visit the conference Web site at <www.vaumc.org/Mission> or contact the conference mission office at 1-800-768-6040, (804) 521-1100, ext. 144; e-mail: <Mission@vaumc.org>.

Vocational Mission Opportunities

- Commitment on Personnel (CCMP)
- Categories of Commissioned Mission Personnel
- Global Missions
- Committee on Vocational Missions (GBGM)
- Other Opportunities to Serve
- Voices of Youth: Awakening the Church to Mission — Virginia high school students participate in a “3½-week mission experience.” They receive hands-on training in how “The United Methodist Church answers the call to mission locally and throughout the world.” They also come to understand the “fruits of personal involvement in mission.” Musical concerts are held at local churches to challenge them to become involved in God’s mission.
- Young Adult Mission Intern — Young adults aged 20-30 who serve 15 months in work/study in an international assignment followed by 16 months of action/education in their own country.

For more info: If you feel led to serve in any of these areas of mission, contact Joanne Maughlin, chair of CCMP; at (703) 538-4155 or e-mail: maughlinyaho@gmail.com. You may also receive the conference office of Mission and Global Justice at 1-800-768-6040, (804) 521-1100, ext. 144; e-mail: Mission@vaumc.org.
MISSION RESOURCE PERSONS

Each district has a District Mission Coordinator and United Methodist Women (UMW) District Education and Interpretation Coordinator. They are responsible for promoting and interpreting the mission opportunities in United Methodism to your district.

How can these persons help your church?

• They are available free of charge to present a mission program for your church.
• They can conduct a training session for your mission search committee or UMW.
• They can explain how to enter into a covenant relationship with a missionary (see Appendix 2).
• They can share with you mission opportunities for your children, youth and adults.
• They can help provide mission materials for your church.
• They can provide information on available scholarships for children, youth, young adults and adults to attend the conference School of Christian Mission.
• They can locate other mission speakers for your church from across the jurisdiction.
• They can provide resources for district in planning a mission celebration.
• They can help you look at mission opportunities in the context of your specific community.

In short, these persons are YOUR local resources for making God’s mission a central, active part of your congregation.

To locate these persons in your district, visit the Web at <www.vaumc.org/Mission>, or call the conference mission office at 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 144, or e-mail <mission@vaumc.org>.

CONFERENCE MISSION PERSONNEL

Conference Secretary of Global Ministries and Director of Mission and Global Justice: Rev. Glenn Rowley, Virginia Conference Office of Mission, P.O. Box 5060; Glen Allen, VA 23059; 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 144 (o); e-mail: <mission@vaumc.org>

President, Board of Global Ministries: Kristin Holbrook, (540)337-2980 (e), <kristinholbrook@umc2179.com>

DISTRICT MISSION COORDINATORS

District Mission Coordinators provide resources and tools for congregational use. They are responsible for promoting and interpreting the mission opportunities in United Methodism to your district.

They are available to talk with your church about mission opportunities in the context of your specific community.

They can provide information on available scholarships for children, youth, young adults and adults to attend the conference School of Christian Mission.

They can share with you mission opportunities for your children, youth and adults.

They can help you look at mission opportunities in the context of your specific community.

In short, these persons are YOUR local resources for making God’s mission a central, active part of your congregation.

To locate these persons in your district, visit the Web at <www.vaumc.org/Mission>, or call the conference mission office at 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 144, or e-mail <mission@vaumc.org>.

Print, Media, Web & Other Resources

Joy to the World — The purpose of this book is to explore the theology of mission and evangelism in the 21st-century context of Christianity as a worldwide religion and our role as a local congregation. To order, call 800-672-1789 or order online at <http://gbgm-umc.org/e-store>. Item #9781933663397

Concepts of Mission — This booklet is an easy-to-use Bible study on mission. There are chapters on the biblical basis for mission, concepts of mission in the 21st Century, and social justice issues. To order, call 1-800-305-9857, e-mail <csa@misionesoresurcenter.org> or order online at <www.missionresourcenter.org>. Item #9781933663197.

Roadmap to Renewal: Rediscovering the Church’s Mission — Take a journey of rediscovering your church’s true mission and ministry. This book will serve as a valuable guide on this journey by providing plans, questions, exercises, and tools for use. Call 1-800-672-1789 or order online at <http://gbgm-umc.org/e-store>. Item #9781933663397.

Prayer Calendar — Includes a listing of mission personnel and projects, excerpts from missionary letters, maps, names, addresses and birthdays of active and retired missionaries and deaconesses. Call 1-800-672-1789 or order online at <http://gbgm-umc.org/e-store>. Item #9781933663272.

New World Outlook — The bimonthly general-interest mission magazine of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. To subscribe, call 1-877-881-2385 or online at <http://gbgm-umc.org/mwo>.

Response — The monthly mission magazine of United Methodist Women (UMW), which shows how UMW is in mission on behalf of the entire United Methodist Church. To subscribe, call 1-877-881-2385 or online at <www.umwmission.org>.

Key Mission Contacts

1. Conference Mission Interpretation Team — Judy Fender, 703/250-6100 (o), 703/978-5796 (h); <jfender@erols.com>
2. United Methodist Volunteers In Mission — Keith Motley, 804/275-2325 (o), 540/760-4376; <umvm@vaumc.org>
3. IOH – Brazil Coordinators — Dot Ivey, 804/897-4060; <divey1961@verizon.net>
4. IOH – Mozambique Coordinator — Jay Hanke, 540/450-8138; <jhanke@cox.net>
5. Missionary Support/Itineration — Dale Childrey, 804/275-7560; <dchildrey@comcast.net>
6. School of Missionary Leadership — Louise Miller, 540/343-7529 (h); <rolmiller@cox.net>
7. Voices of Youth — Rachel Hundley, 540/383-5480; <rhundley@comcast.net>
8. Disaster Response Coordinator — Bob Phiciranit, 757/482-2364 (o), 757/408-6653 (c), <vcreated@cox.net>

For information about the following countries, contact:

1. Cambodia — Juanita Cisneros, 703/780-5851; <juanita@cisneros.net>
2. Uganda — Jennifer Score, 540/729-7563; <jscore@comcast.net>
3. Sudan — Nancy Childress, 703/793-0026; <nchildress@tobacco.org>
4. Cuba — Aldo Gonzalez, 703/818-0954; <alfgomez@cox.net>
5. Russia — David Hindman, 804/798-7224; <dunncaremliteralumc.org>
6. Guatemala — Muna Hijazi, 804/863-8635; <muhijazi@comcast.net>
7. Honduras — Kip and Nancy Robinson, 804/744-5624; <kip@lbf.org>

Important Numbers & Web Sites

The Virginia United Methodist Center

• Phone: 1-800-768-6040, (804) 521-1100, ext. 110; e-mail: <advocate@vaumc.org>
• Web Site: <www.vaumc.org>
• UMOR General Information
• UMCOR General Information: 1-800-554-8583; Web site: <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor>
• Women’s Division Mission Resource Center: 1-800-305-9857; E-store: <women@umwmission.org>
• Cokesbury Customer Service: 1-800-672-1789; Fax: 1-800-445-8189; E-mail: <customerservice@ummpublishing.org>; E-store: <http://gbgm-umc.org/e-store>

Internet Home pages

Mission Projects Around the World: <www.AdvancingHope.org>
Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church: <www.vaumc.org>
General Board of Global Ministries: <www.gbgb-umc.org>
The United Methodist Church home page: <www.umc.org>
All God's Children Camp

for children of incarcerated mothers

The All God's Children Camp provides a week of sanctuary for children who face so many challenges in their lives: economic poverty, loneliness, low self-esteem, violence, drugs and temporary living conditions while their mothers (usually their only parent) are incarcerated. Children spend a week at camp participating in activities such as boating, swimming, hiking, archery, horseback riding, music, crafts, Bible study and conflict resolution. The camp is now offered three weeks during the summer at three different United Methodist camps.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Financial Contributions: Gifts from individuals, groups, and churches make this ministry possible. A scholarship of $350 sends one child to camp.

Mentoring: Volunteers come from churches across the conference to spend the week at camp. These mentors model to the children what God’s presence means in their lives. Mentors do not lead activities, but rather provide supervision, companionship and compassion to the children during their daily activities.

Supplies: Your Sunday school class, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women or Vacation Bible School can help the camp by collecting needed supplies.

Transportation: Help drive some of the campers to and from camp. Caregivers do not always have the car, money for gas, time or energy to provide their own transportation for the children.

For more information, visit www.vaumc.org or contact Casey Torrence at 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 138; or Casey.Torrence@vaumc.org

 Embracing the Inclusiveness of Christ through:

• Accessibility, Program and Respite Grants and Scholarships
• Annual Conference Accessibility • Camp Rainbow Connection
• Disability Awareness Sunday • Support and Resources for Ministries with Persons with Disabilities •

Funds for programs and activities of the Commission on Disabilities come from individual and local church contributions and the support of the United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women and other mission groups. Programs of the Commission have been the mission focus of the conference United Methodist Men since 1972.

For more information, contact: Office of Leadership and Inclusivity 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 153 or 154 E-mail: MarthaStokes@vaumc.org

YOUTH MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Youth in action can be found across the conference striving to share the love of God by being God’s hands and feet. In addition to the events that are sponsored by the conference, such as the Middle School Mission weekends and Summer Project Youth (SPY), there is also a valuable tool right at your fingertips. The conference has created a Web site where you can find mission for youth locally, regionally, nationally and globally. Through this Web site, you can search for mission opportunities by location, age, cost, and length of trip; it is your comprehensive guide to youth mission opportunities! For more information, check out: www.vaumc.org/youth – and then select “mission opportunities.”

B1 – a fasting campaign that encourages youth not only to abstain from food for 24 hours, but also to live day-to-day fasting from injustices in the world. The goal of B1 is to raise money to empower the poor and disempower the unjust systems that are sustaining poverty in the world. This campaign provides young people with an opportunity to learn and experience the ways in which The United Methodist Church has responded and continues to respond to the needs of others around the world through love and justice. Each youth group can choose from a list of projects that take place in countries such as Mexico, Chile, Haiti, Ghana and the United States. With such an array of projects and locations, the youth groups choose projects based on what they are most passionate about making a difference. From there, the groups raise money, and 100% of the money raised reaches its intended project. For more information and a downloadable video, check out the following link: http://new.gbgm-umc.org/advance/b1/.

YSF – the Youth Service Fund is money raised by youth for youth. Throughout the year, youth raise money so others can have the opportunity to participate in mission. Local churches can apply for in-state and out-of-state grants to be used in mission to youth by referring to the Web site and submitting an application by March 1 every year.

Youth in Action Mission Opportunities:

Middle School Mission Weekends:
run by JEREMIAH PROJECT at Westview on the James, Goochland Aug. 27-29, 2010 Oct. 15-17, 2010

United Nations Seminar: in New York City Summer 2011 (Dates TBA)

Summer Project Youth (SPY): One week mission projects in partnership with Fieldstone UMC, Christiansburg June-August 2011

For more information, visit the Web at www.vaumc.org/youth or contact the youth ministries office. Angie Williams, Director of Children’s, Youth, Young Adult, and Higher Education Ministries Tel: 1-800-768-6040, ext. 139 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 139; E-mail: angiewilliams@vaumc.org

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRY
Bethany UMC members reach out to the poor and disabled

Bethany UMC members help build an accessible addition for a boy who is wheelchair bound.

Stories of Churches Being Faithful Disciples

Courthouse Community UMC brings Christ to those outside

Courthouse Community UMC is a 23-year-old congregation in Virginia Beach. The Gathering UMC is a new young adult faith community established by Courthouse Community last year. All ministries of both congregations are designed to help members develop as faithful disciples by bringing Christ’s love to those outside the church’s physical walls. Among the most recent are:

• Memorial Service food for homeless with blanket drive
• Bi-annual clothing drive
• Christmas Eve offering for Tingen Tenga School in Mozambique, $17,000
• Monetary offerings for Haiti disaster relief and local children’s home
• Members working in local jail ministries
• Members working in local after-school ministry

First mission trip for Chester UMC changes lives forever

One of the most exciting things we have done in our church has been our Spring Break trip to Florida City, Fla., to work with a ministry called Branches, led by Kim King Torres, the covenant missionary we’ve been supporting for the past few years. This was our first mission trip, which was quite a big step for our church – to move from strictly financial contributions to an actual mission trip. We saw it as an opportunity to begin to build a stronger relationship with that community.

In April, a group of five youths and seven adults drove to Florida City to serve for a week. Through the stories we heard, the children we met, and the ministry we experienced, God’s presence was undeniable. Each of us was forever changed. When we returned home, we devoted one of our worship services entirely to sharing our stories and encouraging the congregation that they too, through their prayers and support, were an instrumental part of this trip. Our desire is for our entire congregation to see themselves as part of our ministry there. At the end of May, we learned that a fire had destroyed most of the Branches buildings. As our hearts cry out for Branches, this also has been an opportunity to see our congregation unite in our relationship with this ministry. The common phrase heard around the church these days is “when can we go back?”

— Rev. Brandon Robbins, associate pastor, Chester UMC, Petersburg District

Amelia Thrift Store’s risk-taking mission keeps growing

The North Amelia Charge consists of two small churches with worship attendance averaging 30 to 50 people. Between 15 and 20 people from these congregations combined for a 15-week study of Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. The idea of “Risk-taking Mission” really spoke to them.

After several weeks of praying for guidance, the group agreed that their mission outreach would be a thrift store. It was risk-taking because we had no money, yet we planned to be open five days a week for six hours each day — a big risk with only a dozen people. We agreed that we would sell donated items; the only workers in the store would be “unpaid servants,” and all of our profits would go back into the community.

Through “Extravagant Generosity” the two small congregations gave $10,000 as seed money for the project. It’s a small store — about 1,200 square feet. Once open, our great concerns were getting enough donations and servants.

We began with a good flow of donations; expecting things to slow down after a month or two. We struggled to get enough servants at times, but we were able to staff the store. Rather than tapering off, donations have increased. People arrive daily with trucks and vans full of used but sellable stuff. We now have more than 85 servants who work there, many from other churches in the community, of all ages and races, ranging from 12 to 80 years old.

We decided to give our proceeds to organizations that serve the needy in the community: food banks and community service centers. In the first nine months of operation, we were able to give these organizations more than $20,000 and cover all of the store’s operating expenses.

One of the greatest things about the Amelia Thrift Store is how God has worked through the people to affect the entire community. The editor and owner of the local newspaper, The Amelia Monitor, said the store has changed the entire community. She has seen more people and businesses stand up and give. She said the example set by the store changed the hearts of many people, and a new attitude is spreading in the community.

In the fall, three for-profit thrift stores opened in Amelia, and we feared that our donations would dry up. Instead, we opened our second store with 2,000 square feet of sales space and 1,000 square feet of loading dock and storage space. We’re already considering renting the other half of that building for an additional 3,000 square feet of sales space, because our storage space is packed with new donations.

All this began with a study of Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. There is no limit to what God can do. If you don’t believe it, come to Amelia County and see the Amelia Thrift Store.

— Rev. Michael T. Davis, North Amelia Charge, Farmville District