Pub Theology was held at Bull Island Brewing Company in Hampton as a part of pre-Annual Conference events on Thursday, June 15. Pub Theology has been a pre-conference activity for the last two Annual Conferences, beginning in Roanoke in 2015. The men behind Crackers and Grape Juice podcast, the Rev. Jason Micheli, the Rev. Teer Hardy, the Rev. Taylor Mertins and the Rev. Morgan Guyton, hosted the event with special guest Dr. Jeffrey Pugh to talk about what it means to be a Christian in the current political climate with over 60 people in attendance. The evening began with music by Clay Motley followed by the panel launching into a discussion about ideologies and how they play into our religious and secular lives.

The Gospel spoke a different truth

Pugh’s recent book, *Religiousless Christianity*, tackles the work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in World War II-era Germany. Pugh noted that while many are likening the current climate to 1944 Germany, 2017 America is not 1944 Germany. However, Pugh suggested that Bonhoeffer’s work can still be applied to our current state of affairs. He noted that to Bonhoeffer, “The Gospel spoke a different truth than the culture.” While our country “is certainly not perfect,” he said that he wouldn’t want to see the United States culture collapse as 1944 Germany.

Pugh further noted that there is a sense of idolatry when it comes to political...
Snapchat takes over Conference

From Friday, June 16 at noon until Sunday, June 18 at 1 p.m. you can take a Snapchat with your friends while you are on and around the convention center and modify it with the conference logo. Simply take a normal Snapchat picture and search through your filters to see the Annual Conference logo. But why use Snapchat during conference? The Communications Board is looking for new and exciting ways to engage people across the conference!

Follow conference communications throughout AC 2017

Please be sure to follow conference communications on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter during the Annual Conference and join in the conversation by using the hashtag #vaumc17. Share with us year-round by using the hashtag #vaumc when you post about what’s going on at your church and around the conference on any of these social media platforms.

Photo booth at Communications display

Be sure to stop by and see members of the conference Communications Board at their display in the exhibition hall. At the table, you can subscribe to the Advocate, purchase conference DVDs and the Book of Reports as well as take a photo at the photo booth, a new feature this year!

COSROW offers Friday conversation event

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) invites you into a sacred space for conversation about your experience as a Christian woman in light of recent political atmosphere and justice issues relating to women in today’s world. The conversation is primarily by, for, and about women, however, everyone is welcome. The event will be held in room 202 in the Hampton Roads Convention Center on Friday, June 16 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Conversation facilitators will be the Rev. Erin Geoffrion, pastor at Mineral-Mt. Pleasant Charge UMC; and Janae House, a private practice clinician in Midlothian, Va.

No registration is needed. For questions, email the Rev. Mary Dadisman, COSROW clergy chair, at marydadisman@vaumc.org or call 804-733-7349.