It's no secret that part of my story is a mission story.

Bishop
Young Jin Cho

I have shared the witness of the Methodist mission in Korea and how that story of mission touched my life with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Gospel the Methodist missionaries introduced to Korea touched so many people and changed their lives so much that now the Korean Methodist Church is second only to the United States in the amount of support given to missionaries. I share this historic story of mission as a point of challenge.

Maybe you have never thought of it, but as a disciple of Jesus Christ a part of your story is a mission story as well. It may not have come as directly as it did to me as a young man in Korea through the witness of missionaries but, at some point, all of us who profess the transforming power and love of Jesus Christ have received love divine through a missional witness from someone who loved us as God first loved them. And, if we continue to look closely we will find that every time we engage in God’s mission by touching those in need of that grace by hands-on mission experience and sharing our resources in supporting mission efforts locally, nationally and around the world, we receive back grace upon grace.

Take time to look through the pages of this 2013-2014 edition of the Mission Opportunities Booklet. Find where you are being called to witness in mission as a disciple or a faith community. Strengthen your mission story and the mission story of our Virginia Conference by supporting all those we are in mission with through our connectional mission funds. Then travel a second mile to support those mission projects and missionaries that are truly making a difference in people’s lives. It will bless your life and your mission story.

Young Jin Cho, Resident Bishop
How to use this booklet

As you look down the colored tabs to the right, you find several topics related to each of the two mission-related goals for Vital Congregations. These topics offer opportunities for your faith community to grow through being engaged in hands-on mission and mission giving.

- **Giving to Missions** is a first priority of all our churches, and the first objective for each congregation is to pay all apportionments in full. In walking this first mile of mission giving, the connection of The United Methodist Church is strengthened as we share our gifts and depend on one another as sisters and brothers in Christ. It is a mutuality of grace!

- After this first-level giving is shared, leaders in our faith communities can then consider the various **mission opportunities** offered as ways to walk a second mile with those who need our gifts of support through The Advance, from supporting missionaries to mission projects around the world and in our own backyard.

- This booklet can also be used as an **educational tool** in a variety of settings – new member orientation, Sunday school class, small group study and discussion groups, youth and young adult fellowships, or as a resource for finance and stewardship teams.

- Finally, as faith communities searching for new ways to be involved in hands-on mission activities, you will find opportunities for serving God’s mission in your community, our state, the nation and internationally. The resources for engaging as disciples in mission and outreach are here.

- **Have questions about anything in this booklet or need more copies?**

  Call the conference office of Justice and Missional Excellence 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 in the memo line of the check. Send to:

**Treasurer, Virginia Conference UMC,**

**P.O. Box 5605,**

**Glen Allen, VA 23058**

100% of your contribution goes to the Advance ministry you choose!

Cover photo: Vanesa Silva de Soza (left) and Yulimara Machin da Silva, both 8, in the rain in the Esperança Sustainable Development Project (Brazil). Photo by Paul Jeffrey.
**Connectional Giving**

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 portion is also sent to the Annual Conference to collectively support Conference Ministries Apportionments (pg. 6), General Church Apportionments (pg. 7), and Clergy Benefits Apportionments (pg. 5). These are 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, missionaries and ministries through *The Advance for Christ and His Church* and through contributions to Special Sunday offerings (see back cover).

All Virginia Conference faith communities are encouraged to be Vital Congregations, growing in worship attendance, number of small groups, number of disciples engaged in mission, and amount of money given to mission. This booklet can help your congregation meet its Vital Congregations goals by walking the first mile, going the second mile, and then participating in hands-on mission opportunities.
Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. ("VUMPI") is the Virginia Conference’s agency focused on financing health care coverage and pension benefits for clergy and lay employees. While VUMPI’s mission is based on the administration and financing of these programs, VUMPI’s staff members see this work as a ministry which helps enable Virginia Conference clergy and lay employees to develop and lead United Methodist faith communities.

The following apportionments allow VUMPI to carry out its mission:

**ACTIVE CLERGY HEALTH** ................................ $9,425,000

The apportionment for active clergy health plans enables VUMPI to maintain the self-funded health care coverage offered to full-time Virginia Conference clergy and their families. Medical issues can arise at any time, without warning, and treatment can be very expensive. The health-related programs we administer not only help to dramatically reduce the financial risks associated with medical issues, but are also designed to encourage care that will help avoid costly medical issues. Without the coverage that is offered, our clergy would be exposed to potentially catastrophic financial risk. For those unable to secure health care coverage through a spouse’s employer-sponsored plan, the individual market would likely be the only source of coverage.

In addition to actively serving clergy, the Virginia Conference health plan covers disabled children and surviving spouses of deceased clergy.

The active clergy health plan apportionment for 2014 reflects a 4% increase from the 2013 apportionment. The actual medical cost trend over the past year has exceeded 8%, and with no other changes to the plans, the increase in apportionments would more than double. By modifying plan designs and asking clergy enrolled in the plan to pay a bit more for their coverage, VUMPI was able to limit the increase in apportionments to 4%.

**RETIRED CLERGY HEALTH** ......................... $5,880,000

The health plans for retired Virginia Conference clergy help fulfill the mission of taking care of the clergy who have spent their careers taking care of others. Care employer-sponsored retiree health care is not as common as it once was, we remain committed to helping support the financial security of our retired clergy. For those who are not yet eligible for Medicare, we offer access to one of the health plans that actively serving pastors can select, but the retiree is asked to pay a bit more than the active pastor pays. For those who are eligible for Medicare, we offer a plan that helps pay for the things that Medicare doesn’t cover, but Medicare remains the primary source of coverage.

Retired clergy who aren’t yet eligible for Medicare would be exposed to significant financial risk if they had no coverage. Even for those who are eligible for Medicare, without supplemental coverage, retired clergy would still face potentially catastrophic financial risks. As is the case with the active clergy health plan, retired clergy enrolled in this plan are being asked to pay a bit more for their coverage in 2014 in order to limit the increase in the Retired Clergy Health apportionment.

**PENSION LIABILITY ASSESSMENT, PRE-82** .. $2,090,000

We have made a financial commitment to our clergy who earned credit under the pension program in place prior to 1982. In order to fulfill that commitment, we are following a strategy that is designed to have sufficient funding for our total future pre-82 pension obligations by the end of 2021. Before this pension program was in place, surviving spouses of deceased clergy received no benefit under the program; once the clergyperson passed away, the benefit payments stopped. Under the pre-82 pension program, surviving spouses of eligible clergy receive slightly reduced benefit payments for the remainder of their own lives. This can make the difference between living the rest of their lives with dignity and potentially facing poverty. VUMPI has received phone calls from surviving spouses of recently deceased clergy, and the reassurance that guaranteed ongoing benefit payments provide can be a source of modest comfort during an otherwise very troubling time.

**TOTAL: CLERGY BENEFITS APPORTIONMENTS** .................................................................$17,395,000

![Clergy Benefit Apportionments](image-url)
Virginia Conference Ministries

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.”
Philippians 1:3-5

CONFERENCE MISSION & MINISTRIES ...........$3,580,000
The Conference Mission & Ministries Apportionment connects all churches of the Virginia Conference toward a goal of fruitfulness and multiplication. Guided by a focus on leadership development, this apportionment provides a holistic approach to ministries that seek to disciple people in the Christian faith through existing congregations, new faith communities and ministries that reach beyond the local church. Funding for the Mission & Ministries Apportionment includes support for ministries in Virginia and around the world that disciple children, youths and adults, funding for campus ministries, disaster response, prison chaplain ministries, a unified response to natural disasters and ministries with persons from all walks of life.

CONFERENCE SERVICES ....................................$1,925,000
The Annual Conference through Conference Services provides a United Methodist Center where more than 9,000 attendees meet each year to carry out the mission and ministries of the Virginia Conference. Conference Services also supports the Annual Conference session where 4,000 clergy and lay members gather to worship, pray, conduct business and carry out our connectional vision.

Our Board of Ordained Ministry and staff manage the credentialing process of the clergy in the Virginia Annual Conference and support the clergy through programs, educational training and family support.

Our Treasurer’s office is responsible for handling and safeguarding funds in excess of $30,000,000 entrusted to the conference from local church apportionments and benevolences. The Treasurer’s office supports the work of the Council on Finance and Administration, conference Board of Trustees and the Equitable Compensation Commission. This office serves as a resource for local churches in the areas of finance, stewardship, administration and insurance, and leads multiple training events throughout the conference.

The mission and ministries of the Council on Finance and Administration, the conference Board of Trustees and the Commission on Archives and History are supported through Conference Services.

The Episcopal Office is supplemented and is provided a parsonage, car and an Assistant to the Bishop position.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS FUND ..............$2,100,000
The Virginia Conference supports the work of 16 district superintendents providing salary, pension, travel, workers compensation and continuing education. All other related costs, such as housing, district office expense and staff are supported through each individual district office.

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION .......................$500,000
The Equitable Compensation Fund provides financial assistance for churches within the Virginia Conference which are unable to meet the minimum compensation for their clergy. Full-time ministers are guaranteed a minimum level of compensation dependent upon their ordination status. The local church or charge is required to provide a minimum amount frequently referred to as the “floor” level of compensation. The primary obligation of the Equitable Compensation Commission is to make up the difference between the minimum compensation level and the floor for churches determined to be eligible.

CHURCH EXTENSION & DEVELOPMENT ........$500,000
The Church Extension & Development Fund (CEF) supports the Church Development Team with 65% of the amount received to support New Faith Communities in assistance for the first three years of inception. CEF also supports the Common Table Special and Sustaining Program Grants with 10% of the amount received to provide financial grants to outreach ministries throughout the Virginia Conference. The remaining 25% of the amount received is returned to the districts to support their Church Extension and Board of Missions.

VIRGINIA EDUCATION FUND ....................$1,020,000
Churches across the Virginia Conference support the five Virginia Conference church-related colleges, universities, and preparatory school. These institutions are Ferrum College, Randolph-Macon College, Randolph College, Shenandoah University, Virginia Wesleyan College and Randolph-Macon Academy. Each institution must use 50% or more of its share to provide at least a $500 scholarship to each United Methodist student for attending a United Methodist-affiliated institution. -The remainder of the financial support is used to provide religious activities for the students on campus.

TOTAL: Virginia Conference Ministries ..................$9,625,000
Worldwide United Methodist Church Ministries

**EPISCOPAL FUND** ................................................... $886,200

Our bishops oversee and promote the church’s spiritual and temporal interests. This fund underwrites salaries, housing, office expenses and travel costs of active bishops. It also provides pension and health benefits for active and retired bishops and their families.

**WORLD SERVICE FUND** ..................................... $3,034,800

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 around the world and funds evangelistic outreach, establishment of new churches, anti-hunger projects, social justice advocacy, and resources for local church work with children, youth, singles, students, disabled persons and adults of all ages. It provides basic 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 churches and annual conferences is the first benevolent responsibility of the Church.” 2012 Book of Discipline (¶812).

As United Methodists, our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. One way is by 100% support of the World Service Fund.

**GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONNECTIONAL FUND** .................................................. $492,000

This apportionment 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 (which 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.

**MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND** ..................... $1,041,900

Men and women choose ordained ministry because God calls them. The Ministerial Education Fund is our way to help them answer that divine call. This fund provides educational support for United Methodist ordained elders and deacons and diaconal ministers, and provides essential support to the 13 United Methodist seminaries in the United States. Of the money received for this fund, 25% is returned to our annual conference for scholarships, clergy professional development and continuing education, and programs to encourage men and women to respond to the call to ordained ministry.

**BLACK COLLEGE FUND** ......................................... $415,600

This fund supports the 11 United Methodist historically black colleges and universities in the United States, including one medical school. These schools provide opportunities for many students of promise who otherwise might be excluded from higher education. Graduates of these institutions — teachers, doctors, ministers, bishops, judges, artists and entrepreneurs — are leaders in the African-American community and in a rapidly changing, more diverse United States.

**AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND** ................................... $93,000

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

**INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND** ..................................................................................... $81,500

United Methodists acknowledge that we are but a small part of the worldwide Christian church — the living body of Jesus Christ. This fund supports ecumenical efforts to foster a renewal of Christian unity and understanding as we work with other Christian communions to witness to a common faith, meet human suffering and advocate for peace and justice all over the world.

**TOTAL:**

**Worldwide United Methodist Church Apportionments** ................................................................. $6,045,000

As disciples of Jesus Christ, United Methodists covenant together to share in the gospel through their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Apportionments provide the connection through which this covenant is realized. As the good news of Jesus is shared in communities and regions across the world through The United Methodist Church, I invite you to pray with joy as you share the gift of faith in our Savior.

-Marc Brown, director of Connectional Ministries
For many people around the world, and even our neighbors here in the U.S., their first connection with The United Methodist Church is through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) serving as the relief and humanitarian arm of The United Methodist Church. Our goal is to assist the most vulnerable persons affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion, gender or sexual orientation. UMCOR believes all people have God-given worth and dignity.

UMCOR’s work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. It provides humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disasters disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own.

While UMCOR cooperates with other aid organizations to extend our reach, its most important partners are the people it serves. It believes that successful solutions to emergency or chronic conditions begin with the affected population. UMCOR provides these survivors not only temporary relief but also long-term education, training and support.

UMCOR uses thousands of volunteers every year to carry out the ministry of comfort and relief, and UMCOR spends 100 percent of designated donations on the projects donors specify. When UMCOR volunteers give their time, money and supplies, we are the hands and feet of Christ.

What many United Methodists aren’t aware of is that for 100 percent of your donation to meet an emergency relief need or to support a humanitarian project, the administrative and logistical costs have to be covered in another way. That way is the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Sunday Offering (usually observed the fourth Sunday of Lent, which is March 30 in 2014). Encourage your church to observe this important second-mile offering.

Of course you can donate to any project by placing an offering in the plate at any local United Methodist church or by calling 1-800-554-8583, where credit card donations are accepted. In response to all disasters you can make an immediate $10 donation by texting the word RESPONSE to 80888.

You can get more information and give online by going to www.umcor.org and clicking the “DONATE” menu button.

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.
- Complete two packing lists: one for your records and one to put outside the box with the shipping label. Paste the shipping label/packing list on the outside of each box you send to UMCOR. The shipping label may be downloaded from the UMCOR website at www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies.

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, IA 70514-0850.

Monetary donations include:
- $1.00 per kit for processing and shipping
- $1.00 for UMCOR to purchase toothpaste (Health Kits only)

If you prefer UMCOR to provide kits for you, include:
- $12 for UMCOR to provide a Health Kit
- $11 for UMCOR to provide a School Kit
- $35 for UMCOR to provide a Baby/Layette Kit
- $8 for UMCOR to provide a Birthing Kit
- $55 for UMCOR to provide a Cleaning Bucket

SEND ALL MONETARY DONATIONS (including $1 shipping for each kit and $1 for toothpaste) ON ONE CHECK, payable to: Virginia United Methodist Conference (earmarked for “UMCOR Kits”) and mail to: Treasurer, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058

*DO NOT PACK MONETARY DONATIONS IN BOXES WITH KITS! CHECKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE! Send money before or immediately after.

To learn about other UMCOR kits, Cleaning Buckets (formerly known as Flood Buckets), and Medicine Boxes that are needed throughout the world, visit the UMCOR website at www.umcor.org, the conference website 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.
Little things do mean a lot — especially when those little things are brought together as United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) kits. The contents of each of these “starter sets” are such simple, small things — pencils, tablets, wash cloths, 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 www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies.

**SCHOOL KIT**

Note: no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols please; cartoon characters are acceptable.

- 1 pair blunt scissors, rounded-tip only; no plastic scissors
- 3 units of 8½” x 11” paper — consisting of any combination of single-subject spiral notebooks, top-bound pads or loose leaf paper (if using loose leaf, no more than 150 sheets counts as 1 unit). No composition books.
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener; must be at least 1 1/2 inches long — remove from packaging
- 1 30-centimeter ruler, hard or flexible
- 6 unsharpened pencils
- 1 2½” eraser
- 24-count box of crayons; only 24-count boxes please
- 14” x 16” cloth bag; homemade or purchased bags are both acceptable; heavy duty fabric only: denim, corduroy, drapery fabric etc.; closures are optional, but must be buttons, snaps or Velcro sewn in middle of opening if used.

**Assembly:** Lay out the hand towel flat on a table. Lay the wash cloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the wash cloth. Fold over the sides of the hand towel to cover all of the items. Fold over one end of the hand towel so that it covers all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly and roll over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the bundle in the plastic bag and seal the bag.

**LAYETTE KIT**

- 6 cloth diapers prefolded or plain diapers only; no disposable diapers
- 2 shirts; undershirts or onesies
- 2 wash cloths; infant size only — no adult cloths
- 2 gowns or sleepers
- 2 diaper pins; must have protective plastic closures — no regular safety pins
- 1 sweater or jacket; open from the front; may be hand-knit, crocheted or sewn; hooded sweatshirts are acceptable
- 2 receiving blankets; 30”x30” or 32”x32”; no thermal or fleece blankets please
- 2 gowns or sleepers
- 2 wash cloths; infant size only — no adult cloths
- 2 shirts; undershirts or onesies
- 1 hand towel 15” x 25” to 17”x 27”; kitchen cleaning and microfiber towels not acceptable
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 comb — needs to be sturdy, no pocket combs or picks, rattle combs and combs without handles are acceptable
- 1 metal nail file or clipper — no emery boards
- 6 adhesive bandages — ¾” to 1” size common household band aids
- 1 bath size soap – 3 oz. and larger sizes only; all brands are acceptable, do not remove from original packaging
- 1 toothbrush — adult size only; do not remove from original packaging
- 1 plastic bag one gallon size; sealable bags only
- $1.00 to purchase toothpaste

**BIRTHING KIT**

- 1 small bar soap, 1 oz. to 2 oz. size; do not remove from original packaging; small hotel bars are acceptable
- 1 pair latex, surgical or thin rubber gloves; no kitchen or thick rubber work gloves. Gloves are not required to be sterile
- 1 square yard of clear plastic sheeting; must be 4 mil thick. Plastic trash bags and shower curtains are not acceptable
- 3 12”-long pieces of cotton string; must be clean. Secure the pieces of string by bundling and tying them together; no yarn please
- 1 single-edge razor blade; must be covered in paper or cardboard to keep it from causing injury. Regular shaving razors are not acceptable
- 2 receiving blankets; 30”x30” or 32”x32”; no thermal or fleece blankets please
- 1 plastic bag; one gallon size sealable bag only

**Assembly:** Fold the plastic sheeting and blankets so they will fit easily into the plastic bag. Lay the loose items on top of the blankets and plastic sheeting. Slide all items into the plastic bag. Squeeze as much air out of the bag and then seal it.

**HEALTH KIT**

- 1 plastic bag one gallon size; sealable bags only

**Assembly:** Fold the plastic sheeting and blankets so they will fit easily into the plastic bag. Lay the loose items on top of the blankets and plastic sheeting. Slide all items into the plastic bag. Squeeze as much air out of the bag and then seal it.

UMCOR is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire. Do not put single dollar bills in each kit. Toothpaste money must be sent to the Virginia Conference with shipping monies.
God’s mission in the world has no boundaries. Although when we first think of mission we usually think of ministry in some other part of the world, we also know that the need for us to participate in God’s mission is most evident next door. Our call to mission and ministry in Virginia is represented by the following Virginia Advance Specials, which have been chosen for special emphasis by the conference Board of Global Ministries. These mission opportunities provide individuals and churches an opportunity to know that 100 percent of their gift goes directly to the project — another benefit of our United Methodist connection! For more information about these Virginia Conference Advance Specials, visit the conference website at www.vaumc.org/Mission.

Virginia Conference Advance Specials

1. Roanoke: Shalom Zone/Grace Ministries: Urban ministry that assists the residents of Roanoke in growing beyond their current circumstances while facing the challenges of life. Providing resources for those who seek to develop new skills, participate in healthy activities, and need the encouragement to make changes.
   roanokedistrict@vaumc.org ............(#5046)

2. Lexington: Crossroads College Ministry: Connecting college students to God and their community through weekly study, worship and mission.
   www.lexumcm.org ........................(#5030)

3. Christiansburg: Summer Project Youth (SPY): Empowering youth leadership as they engage in relational community mission such as home winterization.
   www.project-SPY.com...................(#5018)

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, youths and adults can spend creative time and find a helping hand and a listening ear.
   www.gbgm-umc.org/hfsc ............(#5008)

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. ............(#5004)
   www.communityoutreachroanoke.org

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.
   vacdrt@cox.net ..............................(#5037)

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.
   caretakersofgodscreation@me.com
   ............................................................................(#5016)

   esdsumc@verizon.net ....................(#5020)
9. Arlington: GRACE Ministries of The United Methodist Church: A network of six churches in the Arlington District. Provides support and empowers the low-income immigrant community in northern Virginia through its ministries, distribution and job-training classes.
   mreal@florisumc.org ..............(#5035)

   www.eslim.org .......................(#5036)

11. 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.
   www.umumr.org ....................(#5001)

12. Teens Opposing Poverty, Inc. (TOPS): Provides opportunities for youth to serve and share Christ to the poor and homeless. ..........(#5010)
   www.teensopposingpoverty.org

13. Virginia: Heart Havens: Provides residential support for adults with intellectual disabilities through a network of 12 homes across Virginia. Heart Havens’ homes offer a Christian, faith-based home environment, empowering individuals to be independent, contributing citizens in their community.
   www.hearthavens.org ......(#6442)

14. Lynchburg: Jackson Street UMC Community Revitalization Ministry: Nonviolent youth offenders ordered by the courts to complete community service come to Jackson Street UMC to complete community service. Through Christian mentoring, caring for neighbor-hoods they learn how to care for community.
   aduncan81@me.com.......... (#5028)

15. Lynchburg: Park View Community Mission: The United Methodist Church’s Four Areas of Focus converge at Park View Community Mission, an outreach ministry of the Lynchburg District.
   Phil12_13@yahoo.com.........(#5019)

16. Portsmouth: Wesley Community Center: A national mission institution related to the United Methodist Women, Inc. offering programs and services in the tradition of the historic settlement house movement in America, aimed at empowering the poor and marginalized while conveying a message of human dignity and worth for all persons. .........................(#5025)
   wesleycenter1@verizon.net

17. Gloucester County: Helping Hands Mission Camp: A Christ-centered, youth-focused, multi-denominational community service mission for youths and adults. Youth campers are divided into work teams with adult mentors to complete home maintenance, home repairs and small construction projects for people in Gloucester County that need our helping hands.
   www.hh-missioncamp.org (#5026)

18. Virginia: Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of Virginia: Ministry whose mission and vision is to take Disciple Bible studies to the inmates of every state and federal prison in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
   gene.mims@comcast.net (#5029)

19. Pathways: Advancing community restoration, spiritual and physical health, and economic growth in Petersburg through partnerships. Programs include youth and workforce development, affordable green housing production, civic engagement, and free specialty health services.
   www.pathways-va.org (#5045)

20. Charlottesville: Tuesday’s Table: An outreach ministry that provides meals to the hungry in the community. .. (#5024)
   springchckn44@embarqmail.com

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Virginia Advance Specials that are also supported through General Board of Global Ministries

- Marion: Project Crossroads, Inc.: Rehabilitation of older homes and first-time home ownership for low-income families. ..........................................................(#781380)
  www.projectcrossroads.org

- Arlington: Just Neighbors Ministry: Offering immigration legal services to low-income immigrant communities. Also, involved in bringing immigrant and non-immigrant communities together through community clinics. ..............................................(#803002)
  www.justneighbors.org
Participating in God’s mission and ministry is where our United Methodist connection may be strongest. Through our participation in programs and projects across the United States by giving to the Advance we make a difference in the lives of people who need our caring presence.

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. Through these ministries we can participate as witnesses to the redeeming love of God in Christ to those in special need: the stranger, the hungry, the broken and hurting. Your gift makes a difference, and 100 percent of your gift through the Advance goes to the project or ministry. The mission and ministries listed below are being promoted by the conference Board of Global Ministries for 2013-2014. For more information about these projects, visit www.vaumc.org/Mission.

National Advance Specials

1. District of Columbia:
   Christ House
   A recovery facility that provides for the physical and emotional needs of homeless men and women..............(#381215)

2. Kentucky:
   Red Bird Mission, Inc., Beverly
   Community education and outreach programs in rural Appalachia.
   ................................................(#773726)

3. Tennessee: Jubilee Project, Inc., Sneedville
   Leadership development and community organizing in an impoverished area. .........................(#781350)

4. Kentucky:
   Henderson Settlement, Frakes
   Programs for disadvantaged teenagers, parents and the elderly.
   ........................................................................(#773365)

5. South Dakota:
   Tree of Life Ministry
   A ministry with Native Americans at the Rosebud and Crow Creek Reservations.
   ..............................................................(#123615)

6. USA: Justice for Our Neighbors Immigration Ministry
   Engaging congregations to welcome immigrants and provide free, quality immigration legal services. ...(#901285)

7. Southeastern Jurisdiction:
   Volunteers In Mission
   Assists those offering their skills in this country and abroad.................(#901875)

8. USA: Response and Recovery to Natural Disaster
   Responds to emergencies such as tornados and flooding throughout the United States. ...........................(901670)

9. Society 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.................................(#801600)

10. Mississippi: Choctaw United Methodist Mission
    Progressing towards health and wholeness and developing Choctaw leadership..............................(#761544)

11. USA: Project Crossroads
    Providing homes, firewood, meals and disaster response for the elderly, the handicapped and families.....(#781380)
Children enjoy their new playground at Sicangu Village Community in South Dakota, built by the Tree of Life Ministry. Photo courtesy of the Tree of Life Ministry Facebook site.
Our conference participates in God’s mission in many places around the world. We have long-term partnerships in Brazil, Mozambique and Cambodia through our Initiatives of Hope ministry as well as a history working with United Methodist partners in Africa, Cuba, the Philippines, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Russia.

We also continue to explore new ways and places of being in mission through our United Methodist connection as global needs emerge and Christ’s church develops and grows internationally.

The international Advance Specials listed below have been selected by the conference Board of Global Ministries for special attention this year. They represent mission and ministry settings across the globe and encompass various missional needs. Remember that by giving to them through the Advance you ensure that 100 percent of your gift goes to the mission or ministry that you designate. For more information about these projects, visit www.vaumc.org/Mission.

International Advance Specials

1. **Global: Sustainable Agriculture**
   Provides training in environmentally friendly and technologically appropriate practices in farming and off-farming activities to small-scale farmers to improve their livelihoods. ...........................................(#982188)

2. **Guatemala: Highland Support Project**
   Works with marginalized indigenous women and communities in Guatemala in the building of stoves and planting trees. ............................(#15022A)

3. **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)

4. **Macedonia: Macedonia In Mission Together**
   Developing leaders and working with the poor, orphaned and disabled. ..................................................(#00220A)

The Methodist Church in Source a Philippe. Photo by Sabrina DuFran.
5. Brazil: Ministry with Children, Shade and Fresh Water Project
   Outreach to children who are hungry, uneducated and endangered by life on the streets.  .......... (#11580A)

6. Sierra Leone: Child Rescue Center Program
   Operation of a residential facility and community outreach program for orphaned children and those impacted by poverty. .... (#14377A)

7. 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)

8. Anti-Human Trafficking
   Working with those ensnared in trafficking of humans for commercial and sexual exploitation. ...(#333615)

9. The Medicine Box
   Essential medicines and medical supplies for clinics and hospitals in countries that have experienced sudden natural disasters. (#982630)

10. Israel: Bethlehem Bible College
    Training Christian leaders to serve the community and stem the decline of churches in the Holy Land. ................. (#12017A)

11. Cambodia: Street Children
    Improving quality of life through education, nutrition and fellowship support. .................... (#14921A)

12. Russia
    Russia Mission Initiative, Ukraine, Moldova................... (#14053A)

13. Mozambique: Chicuque Rural Hospital
    Serving as a model in the delivery of quality primary and preventive health care and staff training .....................(#09734A)

14. Mozambique: Cambine Agriculture Program
    Training farmers in sustainable agriculture and strengthening the local leadership and community ........................(#3020561)

15. Congo: North Katanga Wings of the Morning
    Meeting critical medical needs through air transportation for the needy in rural areas .................................(#08597A)

16. Chile: Methodist Construction Projects
    Constructing churches, parsonages, and community centers. ............................................ (#3020485)

17. Liberia: Ganta United Methodist Hospital
    Providing community and curative health services and training through hospital and village work ...................(#15080N)

18. Haiti: Haiti Emergency Projects
    Supporting emergency relief and development efforts .........(#418325)

19. Cambodia: Mission Initiative
    Supporting new churches, pastors’ salaries, leadership development and outreach ministries ............................(#00230A)
The primary mission focus partnerships of the Virginia Conference

Initiatives of Hope (IOH), the primary mission focus of the Virginia Conference, seeks to create and nurture partnerships based on God’s hope and love in mission with people of other cultures, not ministry to them. Currently IOH is in relationship in three special areas of our world – Mozambique, Brazil and Cambodia. Through these partnerships in God’s mission, Virginia churches have special opportunities to visit, work, worship and share in grace upon grace across borders, oceans and cultures.

The work we do through IOH doesn’t just change the lives of those with whom we are in partnership, 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 partnerships are aimed at providing resources that our partners can sustain long into the future. Among them are:

- Church leadership training for clergy and lay leaders of The United Methodist Church of Mozambique and Cambodia;
- 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;
- Promoting education through scholarships for children and youth in Cambodia and Mozambique.

Children gathered for a presentation to mission team in Cambodia. Photo by Neill Caldwell.
Learn
- Go to the IOH webpage to learn more about our partnerships with Brazil, Mozambique and Cambodia: www.vaumc.org/Mission, click on “Initiatives of Hope.”
- Review and use the IOH mission worship and education resources found at www.vaumc.org/Mission, click on “Initiatives of Hope.”
- Invite an UMVIM volunteer who has been to Brazil, Mozambique or Cambodia to come to a mission event at your church.
- Plan a Mission Awareness event at your church.

Go
- Participate in an UMVIM team to Brazil, Mozambique or Cambodia.

Give
- Support the Annual Conference Offering for Initiatives of Hope.
- Support the Advance projects related to our partner ministries in Brazil, Mozambique and Cambodia.
- Support individuals and teams that are going as short-term UMVIM volunteers to serve in Brazil, Mozambique and Cambodia.
- Enter into a covenant relationship with a missionary from Brazil, Mozambique or Cambodia.

Pray
- For the people of Brazil, Mozambique and Cambodia.
- For the Virginia Conference Mission teams to Brazil, Mozambique and Cambodia.
- For God to guide you in how you might serve.
God continues to call persons to full-time mission service through the General Board of Global Ministries, the global mission agency of The United Methodist Church, its annual conferences, missionary conferences and local congregations. Your congregation participates in support of missionaries through your connectional apportionment to World Service. These missionaries are serving in more than 60 countries sharing their gifts of teaching, health care, evangelism, refugee assistance, community development and congregational development as they serve God’s mission and share the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed. Through their work, these missionaries serve in partnership in ministry and mission with those in need of support and love.

There are several categories of mission service that seek both financial and prayer support:

- **Missionaries Serving Internationally:** Persons who have answered the call to serve outside their home country for a term, usually three years (renewable).

- **Church and Community Workers (CCW):** Persons commissioned to serve in mission ministries and settings that uplift the poor and disenfranchised in rural and urban areas primarily in the United States. CCWs are assigned to cooperative parishes, ethnic ministries, criminal justice ministries, congregational health ministries, immigration, rural and urban ministries and disaster response.

- **Individual Volunteers Program:** Persons who have answered the call to serve in mission for a determined period of time, from two months to two years as a volunteer. This is for individuals or couples ages 18 and over who wish to use their personal gifts to engage and live in community with those whom they serve. The type of work is as varied as the placement sites, offering service opportunities around the world and in the U.S.

- **Young Adult Missionary Programs:**
  - **Mission Interns** – Young adults ages 20-30 engage in a three-year program of leadership development, divided between an international assignment and an assignment in the intern’s home country, based on the understanding that work for social justice is fundamental to living out their faith. The program encourages young adults to learn from communities of faith and to connect that understanding to a community in the intern’s home context. Participants work as grassroots organizers and/or advocates in areas of conflict resolution, peace with justice education, environmental preservation, economic development, indigenous rights, women’s and children’s issues and more.
  - **US-2** – Young adults ages 20-30 serve for two years as part of this social justice and leadership development program and are assigned to diverse ministries at faith-based agencies and community organizations throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The program encourages young adults to deepen their faith while examining their role in church and society in an opportunity to live with and learn from communities of strength while struggling with issues like hunger, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, illiteracy, children at risk, substance abuse, racism, domestic violence, inadequate health care and immigration.
  - **National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministries (NPHLM):** NPHLM is a coordinated effort of The United Methodist Church to focus on the development and strengthening of Hispanic/Latino ministries. It seeks to incorporate the missionary placements into the ongoing ministries of the annual conference by the end of the first or, at the most, at the end of the second term of a three-year assignment.
There are more than 314 Global Ministries missionaries serving in more than 60 countries who are available for support through a Covenant Relationship. Individuals and churches can partner with a missionary and provide financial, spiritual and emotional support. The missionaries listed on these pages have been highlighted for support because of their work in mission settings supported by the Virginia Conference. You are asked to consider supporting them through a Covenant Relationship.

HOW TO SUPPORT A MISSIONARY: Covenant Relationships

<table>
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<tr>
<th>A local church or church group</th>
<th>An individual or family</th>
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<tr>
<td>Commit to an annual gift of a minimum of $5 per member.</td>
<td>Commit to an annual gift of $500 per individual or family.</td>
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Complete the Covenant Relationship Form which is found on the Virginia Conference website at [www.vaumc.org/Mission](http://www.vaumc.org/Mission), click on “Missionaries” then see “Start a Covenant.” Complete the form and e-mail, fax or mail it to the Center for Justice and Missional Excellence as directed on the form.

This partnership is much more than a financial commitment. It is a dynamic relationship where the church and missionary pray for one another and communicate regularly. When you covenant with one missionary, you are supporting the entire United Methodist missionary community on their behalf and in their name.

**Cambodia:**
Clara Biswas (#13952-Z)
clarabiswas@online.com.kh
Esther Gitobu (#13959Z)
etcam@online.com.kh

**Chile:**
John Elmore (#13109Z)
elmor59@gmail.com

**Democratic Republic of Congo:**
Poto Valentine Shutsha (#14163Z)
ujacques1@juno.com
Jacques Akasa Umembudi (#14020Z)
ujacques1@juno.com

**Florida:**
Kim King Torres (#982904)
ktorres@sflum.org

**Liberia:**
Elma Jocson (#13980Z)
dokelma@yahoo.com

**Marion, Virginia:**
Linda Stransky (#803004)
fullcreel56@comcast.net
Mark Stransky (#803003)
fullcreel56@comcast.net

**Mississippi:**
Steve Claris (#3020817)
rs4pr@rev.net

**Mozambique:**
Jeremias Franca (#3019570)
health.missions@yahoo.com

**Democratic Republic of Congo:**
Poto Valentine Shutsha (#14163Z)
ujacques1@juno.com

**Roanoke, Virginia:**
Don Edwards (#982026)
donedwards.esq@gmail.com
Rebecca Parsons (#3021143)
umcpr@roacoxmail.com

**Rocky Mount, Virginia:**
Lisa Nichols (#982953)
henryforkcenter@cs.com

**Virginia:**
Pat Watkins (#3020927)
CaretakersOfCreation@me.com

**Sierra Leone, Africa**
Clifford (Kip) Robinson (#3021815)
krobinson@umcmission.org
Nancy Robinson (#3021816)
nrobinson@umcmission.org
Virginia Volunteers in Mission (VAVIM) is an opportunity for short-term hands-on ministry that offers everyone the opportunity to serve in mission. VAVIM follows the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) model of being “Christian Love in Action” with teams building ongoing relationships with communities as they serve locally to internationally. VAVIM partners with projects which empower others and promote sustainability. VAVIM teams call for persons of various skills and abilities from construction to mentoring and teaching, from supporting health care initiatives to assisting in cleaning up debris after disasters, from leading Vacation Bible Schools to the selfless act of simply being present in mission settings with those who need a listening ear and a caring word.

Teams are especially encouraged to work in the three countries of our conference Initiatives of Hope mission partnerships in Brazil, Cambodia and Mozambique. In those settings your team may be asked to work in construction or repair of homes, churches, parsonages or schools. Working with street children or helping with a medical team to teach primary health care or help with a clinic are other possibilities. In all cases, VAVIM teams are encouraged to build relationships that bring new understanding of how serving God’s mission in the world addresses injustice and transforms lives on both sides of the borders that are crossed.

What is required to send out an UMVIM team from your church? The Virginia Conference Volunteers in Mission requires the following:

- Each team will be led by a trained VAVIM team leader. Team leaders must have participated in at least one Volunteer in Mission trip. There are several team leader training events held across the conference throughout the year. Visit the website at www.vaumc.org/Mission for more details.
- Team leaders must have a cleared background check prior to the trip, and all team members must also have a cleared background check if the team is working with children, youth or at-risk adults.
- The team must be insured. Insurance is provided through the Southwestern Jurisdiction UMVIM office (www.umvim.org).

How does your church send out a team?

- Determine the team’s focus for the project (construction, educational, informational, medical, etc.).
- Decide where you want to go, when you plan to go and return and what is the cost? This all needs research. You can find team sites at www.umvim.org or by checking the VAVIM page of the Virginia Conference website: www.vaumc.org/Mission. You may also decide that persons from your church may want to join team members from other churches who are going on one of the VAVIM conference promoted trips.
- Present your proposal to your Outreach or Mission chairperson as well as your pastor for support. Next, go to the administrative council for approval as a church mission project.

For more information about UMVIM opportunities, contact:

Forrest White
Virginia Conference
UMVIM coordinator
(804) 938-1026 (c)
umvim@vaumc.org

Center for Justice and Missional Excellence
1-800-768-6040
(804) 521-1100, ext. 144
mission@vaumc.org
www.vaumc.org/Mission

In Mission with... Volunteers
This program is a ministry of the General Board of Global Ministries. It provides opportunities for persons who want to volunteer their time for a longer term. For more information on becoming an Individual Volunteer in Mission, contact Glenn Rowley, director of Justice and Missional Excellence, at GlennRowley@vaumc.org or Nancy Eubanks, director of Individual Volunteers in Mission, at (731) 772-0458 or nteubanks@gmail.com.
In Mission with... Sisters and brothers

Crossing borders—changing lives!

When you cross borders, national borders or imaginary borders right in your community that divide classes, races, or ethnic groups, you will find Christ on the other side of that border and it will change your life! If your faith community is exploring taking your first VIM team or you are looking for team members to complete your team, check out the VAVIM page on the Conference website, www.vaumc.org/vaumvim, or scan the QR code and the VAVIM Facebook page at www.facebook.com/VirginiaUMVIM for a listing of teams going from our conference. Make contact with the team leader and inquire about joining one of those teams.

Just remember, Volunteers in Mission is first about relationships and then about what work you do. Long after the work is completed the relationships you built that changed your life will still be touching your life and those around you.

Registering your team

The Virginia Volunteers in Mission (VAVIM) policy requests that every team representing a faith community in the Virginia Conference register their team online with the Southeast Jurisdiction (SEJ) office www.umvim.org. This is important for many reasons but primarily it is to make sure that each team has met the requirements for best practices of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. Registration also allows your team the option to purchase medical insurance from the SEJ office if your team is traveling outside the U.S. When you register it also allows SEJ to provide information on all the teams that travel from our conference to the conference office of Justice and Missional Excellence.

Teams that select not to use the insurance program may register with SEJ at no cost. Teams that select to use the insurance program continue to pay the additional processing fees. The insurance processing fees provide vital funding for staff and resources since UMVIM SEJ receives no funds from the Southeastern Jurisdiction or through apportionments. For information on the insurance, cost and fees, go to: http://umvim.org/resources/insurance-faq/

For a video tutorial of the SEJ registration process go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd_iB4B9hPE

If you have a Smartphone, scan the QR code at left to visit the VAVIM website for the most updated information on leader training and trip details.
World AIDS Day is held on the 1st of December each year. In 2013 it is a Sunday and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate people who have died.

The Health and Welfare Team of our conference Board of Global Ministries is asking that this year every United Methodist church in Virginia give special recognition to World AIDS Day on Sunday, December 1. Please honor this special day through spending a few minutes during worship with prayer and/or liturgy. Congregations are also strongly encouraged to take an offering for the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund on World AIDS Day to support the work that our churches and partners do to understand and combat this disease in communities around the world. The Global AIDS Fund is an Advance Giving Project # 982345.

The Virginia Conference takes great pride in being one of the leading conferences in the denomination in giving to the Global Aids Fund. Let's continue to make a difference in the lives of those affected by HIV/AIDS.

What is the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund?

The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund supports education, prevention and care programs for people living with HIV and AIDS around the world. The fund currently supports over 200 HIV/AIDS church-oriented and Christ-centered ministries in 37 countries, including the United States.

The Fund develops appropriate promotional materials and funding guidelines, advocates for social justice, and encourages partnerships between congregations and organizations globally that are engaged in the struggle against HIV/AIDS.

The Fund is guided by an inter-agency committee comprised of representatives from the Council of Bishops, General Board of Church & Society, General Board of Global Ministries, General Commission on Communications, the Division on Ministries with Young People and the Office of Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns.

HIV and AIDS

HIV is the Human Immunodeficiency Virus that attacks the body’s immune system, severely damaging it and leading to AIDS. This disease is one that has been named a “pandemic” because of the horrific statistics as well as the stigma experienced by people living with AIDS.

As of 2011, there were 34.2 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the world and two-thirds of them live in sub-Saharan Africa. Half of all new cases of AIDS are women, and more than 2 million children are living with HIV/AIDS. According to UNAIDS, in 2011 there were 1.7 million AIDS-related deaths.

In the United States, 1.2 million people are living with HIV. According to the Center for Disease Control, in 2009, African-Americans comprised 14% of the U.S. population but accounted for 44% of all new HIV infections. Rates of HIV for African-American and Latina women are spiking in the United States.

While many people consider HIV/AIDS a disease of the poor and relegated to developing countries and poor communities, the fact is that HIV/AIDS is a serious health problem in the United States and many countries and communities in the world. As a global church, HIV/AIDS is an issue faced by our friends, neighbors, congregations and communities in the places we serve.

RESOURCES

For resources to help your church observe World AIDS Day, including downloadable worship materials and sermon ideas, or for more information on HIV/AIDS, visit the UMCOR Global Health page: http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Programs/Global-Health/HIV-AIDS/AIDS
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. The Common Table, Committee on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy, 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 $175,500 will be distributed to the mission projects listed on this page. Descriptions of these projects can be found 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 office of Connectional Ministries at (804) 521-1100, ext. 134, or e-mail BevMyers@vaumc.org.

**Special Program Grants**

**ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT**

Rising Hope Noonday Meals Program: Rev. Keary Kincannon, 8220 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309; (703) 360-1976; kkincannon@risinghopeumc.org.

**ARLINGTON DISTRICT**

Bruen Chapel UMC ESL Program: Ruth Burgess, 3035 Cedar Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031; (703) 560-1665; pastorbruenchapel@gmail.com.

**CHARLOTTESVILLE DISTRICT**

Cub Care Packages, Nelson UMC: Lori Saunders, 5239 Thomas Nelson Hwy, Arrington, VA 22922; (434) 263-4082; nelsonumc@gmail.com.

Tuesday's Table - Stanardsville UMC: Doris Swenson, PO Box 740, Stanardsville, VA 22973; (434) 985-3888; sprngchckn44@embarqmail.com.

**ELIZABETH RIVER DISTRICT**

Get Smart (Great Bridge UMC): Wendy Scott, 201 Stadium Dr., Chesapeake, VA 23322; (757) 482-1049; wsaaog01@aol.com.

Oak Grove Community Dinner: Kathy Hodges, 472 N. Battlefield Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23320; (757) 547-2319; kathy@oakgroveumc.org.

**FARMVILLE DISTRICT**

Jane Jones Food Pantry (Main St. UMC): Ed Rigg, PO Box 119, South Boston, VA 24592; (434) 572-3290; main-streetumc@embarqmail.com.

**HARRISONBURG DISTRICT**

Shiloh UMC Enrich Program: Lucinda Erbach, 392 Thompson St., Strasburg, VA 22657; (540) 465-3382; luellie392@hotmail.com.

**LYNCHBURG DISTRICT**

Amherst Cares - Emmanuel UMC: Beth Gamble, 297 Ridge Dr., Amherst, VA 24521; (434) 946-7656; bethgamble3@comcast.net.

**RICHMOND DISTRICT**

Belmont UMC Youth Outreach Program: Larry Cochran; 3510 Broad Rock Blvd, Richmond, VA 23234; (804) 275-6336; belmontumcrichmond@gmail.com.

Centenary UMC Walk-in Ministry: Ann Davis, 411 E. Grace St., Richmond, VA 23219; (804) 648-8319; cent.davis@verizon.net.
Dignity Food Service (Discovery): Jim Lavender, 13000 Gayton Rd., Richmond, VA 23233; (804) 360-4442; drjim7772003@yahoo.com.

Food & Clothing Ministry of Belmont UMC: Larry Cochran, 3150 Broadrock Blvd., Richmond, VA 23234; (804) 275-6336; belmontumrichmond@gmail.com or lcochrane@verizon.net.

ROANOKE DISTRICT
Green Memorial UMC: Debbie Brown, 402 Second Street, Roanoke, VA 24011; (540) 344-6225; DebbieB@gmumc.org.

Newport Cares Backpack Ministry: Morris Fleischer, PO Box 133, Newport, VA 24128: (540) 544-7183; nmoumc@pemtel.net.

The Well at Huntington Court: Jeff Wilson, 3333 Williamson Rd., Roanoke, VA; (540) 366-3465; hcumc1@gmail.com.

STAUNTON DISTRICT
Casa de Amistad: Jennifer Strother, PO Box 2447, Waynesboro, VA 22980; (540) 946-7958; cdajenn@comcast.net.

Greenville United Methodist Women (UMW): Beth Haynes, 66 Almo Chapel Rd., Greenville, VA 24440; (540) 266-7262; donede-wars.esq@gmail.com.

ROANOKE DISTRICT
Shalom Zone: Grace Ministries: Don Edwards, esq., 4819 Golfview Dr., Roanoke, VA 24109; (540) 266-7262; donede-wars.esq@gmail.com.
Poverty in the United States and around the world provides many opportunities for engaging in justice ministries to combat this curse that condemns millions to lives of misery, even in this 21st century of affluence for many.

Food pantries and other forms of charitable help provide much needed aid to persons living in poverty. Such mercy ministries address human needs in very tangible ways. But while such mercy ministries can provide much needed relief, they do not address the underlying causes of poverty. Justice ministries are therefore needed to help lift families out of poverty and provide lasting relief.

The “Eradicate Poverty” Work Area of the Board of Church and Society has sought to address this need in several ways. In partnership with the Virginia Interfaith Center on Public Policy, economic summits have been held in Falls Church, Richmond, Roanoke and the Peninsula area to address some of the underlying causes of poverty such as unemployment trends in Virginia, major holes in Virginia’s unemployment insurance and predatory lending. The Richmond summit included a webcast which reached viewers as far away as New York.

Collaborative regional efforts led by members of the Work Area have provided significant justice ministries that could not have been achieved working alone. In northern Virginia BCS member Mike Wilson has provided important leadership for VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) in addressing the massive problem faced by Prince William County which had over 20,000 foreclosures, the highest in Virginia. Working together, United Methodist and other faith communities’ successes have included commitments to loan modification reforms from Bank of America and JP Morgan Chase banks. They have connected more than 900 struggling homeowners to a streamlined modification process and obtained over $1.6 million for housing counselors to work in the Prince William area as well as $25 million in pledges for new investments in affordable housing to stabilize hard-hit communities, and $65 million under the National Mortgage Settlement in loan modifications, debt reductions and principal write-downs helping nearly 1,000 Prince William homeowners.

Strengthening Health Care Services

In Giles County in southwest Virginia Rev. Morris Fleischer has been one of the key persons leading an effort to strengthen health care services where the entire county is designated as a Medically Underserved Area. The current Giles Free Clinic, dependent largely on volunteers and an inadequate budget, serves as the primary health care safety-net for the county but is unable to keep up with demand and

Marchers walk through Reston to call for the preservation of affordable housing at the Crescent apartments on North Shore Drive. The walk, titled “One Reston,” was organized by Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement, an organization of 45 faith communities in Fairfax, Arlington and Prince William counties and the city of Alexandria. (Shamus Ian Fatzinger – Fairfax County Times)
meet the diverse health needs of low-income and uninsured population it seeks to serve. A Planning Committee with representatives from health and human services, public schools, faith communities and local government undertook an extensive health needs assessment study to identify health disparities, barriers to treatment and gaps in available resources. The study found that the number of primary care providers and specialty providers are too few to serve the population; many are near retirement age and mental health and substance abuse services are nearly non-existent. Residents have to travel outside of the county to receive specialty care, and transportation becomes a barrier to receiving health care. In addition, very few health education/nutrition programs are available and prescription drug abuse is exceptionally high.

In view of the demonstrated need for expanded health care access, the committee has submitted a formal application for the clinic to transition to a sustainable, full-service Federal Qualified Health Center which will ensure adequate funding and awaits a response.

These collaborative efforts provide models that can be applied in other parts of Virginia. To learn more about VOICE, visit www.voice-iaf.org.

**Stopping Wage Theft**

Other ongoing work continues to help some of Virginia’s most impoverished and disadvantaged persons. As a direct result of follow-up of our conference’s resolution “Stop Wage Theft,” the 2013 General Assembly, with the support of Gov. McDonnell, added over $330,000 to the Labor and Commerce budget for the next fiscal year to fund wage investigators to help low-wage workers recover hard-earned wages stolen from them by unscrupulous employers and labor contractors through such unethical practices as not paying the minimum wage, paying workers for fewer hours than they worked, giving checks that bounce, misclassifying workers or paying in cash to avoid paying payroll taxes, and taking illegal deductions from workers’ paychecks. And in collaboration with Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, local church volunteers in Alexandria, Norfolk, Petersburg, Richmond and Staunton have assisted hundreds of former offenders (who consist predominantly of the poor and people of color because of the way our laws are framed and administered) in obtaining restoration of their voting rights, putting them one step closer to being restored as full citizens.

The above are examples of economic justice ministries being done to help lift needy families out of poverty. But in view of the magnitude of the need, more volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping with any of the above ministries, or obtaining support for developing work in a related area, contact either Rev. Glenn Rowley, director of Justice and Missional Excellence, GlennRowley@vaumc.org; 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 143; or Rev. Marilyn Heckstall, Eliminate Poverty Work Area chair, mheckstall@comcast.net; (804) 648-6690.

**Justice Points to Ponder**

As many as 10 working-age Virginians die each week because they lack health insurance – most from diseases that could have been treated easily if caught early.

Approximately 300,000 Virginians have been disenfranchised for life and live as second-class citizens, even though they have satisfactorily completed all court imposed punishment for their offense. What are you doing to help them obtain their rights and be restored as full citizens?

Not having access to enough food to sustain a healthy life is a reality for one in six Americans, including children and seniors.

Virginia ranks near the bottom among the 50 states on protections provided against wage theft – the stealing of workers’ hard-earned wages by unscrupulous employers and labor contractors.

Studies have found that the alleged deterrent value of the death penalty is not supported by empirical evidence. Homicide rates are higher in states with the death penalty than in those without the death penalty.
The best kept secret in the Virginia Conference! That’s how this event has been described! Although its history began more than 70 years ago by the then-named Women’s Society of Christian Service, and known as the School of Christian Mission for most of that history, the newly named Mission Encounter is a cooperative event sponsored by the Virginia Conference Board of Global Ministries and the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women. This event offers a wonderful opportunity for your whole congregation to come alive to mission by participating in an exciting weekend or weekday mission education experience.

If you have every wondered not only how we do mission but also where we are in mission and most importantly why we are called to live out missional lives as disciples of Jesus Christ, this is the event to attend!

There are classes for adults where men, women, clergy and laity alike (of all ages) come to learn and be involved in mission groups by choosing one class out of three choices – a spiritual growth study, geographical study or social issue. Each study helps us to understand God’s work in our world and how we are involved as United Methodists. The event is designed to challenge us to be in mission as individuals in our personal lives and in the lives of our local churches. Meeting others involved in mission and sharing ideas and mission stories as well as meeting missionaries are highlights of the event.

It is an excellent “mission trip” for your youths. They have a fun time together as they learn about what United Methodists are doing around the world to alleviate suffering while spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. The youths participate in hands-on mission projects that range from gleaning to working in a shelter to helping the elderly in the area.

Each session features a class/workshop for children, ranging from the age of 7 -12. They study through hands-on learning activities that make mission come alive!

Participants are encouraged to share their new knowledge with their local church congregations. The courses being offered for the next two years are listed on the left.

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Mission Encounter 2014-2015 Courses

2014
Weekend Session: July 25-27, 2014
Weekday Session: July 28-30, 2014
- Spiritual Growth Study: How is it With Your Soul?
- Geographic Study: The Roma of Europe
- Issue Study: The Church and People with Disabilities
- Youth: Disabilities
- Children: Disabilities

2015
Weekend Session: July 24-26, 2015
Weekday Session: July 27-29, 2015
- Spiritual Growth Study: The Pursuit of Happiness
- Geographic Study: Latin America
- Issue Study: The Church and People with Disabilities
- Youth: Latin America
- Children: Latin America

For more information, visit www.vaumc.org/Mission, or contact the conference Mission office at: 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext 144 mission@vaumc.org
For more than 60 years, The Advance is an official program of the United Methodist Church for voluntary, designated, second-mile giving. The Advance allows local churches and individuals to extend their reach into the world.

- The Advance works with church leaders around the world to ensure that approved projects are aligned with the goals of The United Methodist Church in the local area, and helps develop partnerships that are mutually advantageous.

- The Advance also communicates with donors, sharing stories about projects and missionaries as well as reporting on how gifts are making an impact.

- Advance funds allow the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) not only a source to meet needs through its programming but also as a source of private funds that can be significantly leveraged with other grant funds to scale programs to meet even more needs and duplicate these gifts.

- When there is a disaster, The Advance sets up an emergency Advance number so that churches and individuals can immediately donate to the disaster relief. This provides funding for immediate use and helps plan for long-term response.

- All project leaders complete an application and go through a review process to attain Advance status. Accountability is assured through annual reporting and Global Ministries’ audits to ensure that funds are used as described in the application.

Why Should I Give Through The Advance?

- One hundred percent of each gift reaches the project, missionary or ministry you choose. Administrative costs are paid for by the apportionments of United Methodist churches. One Great Hour of Sharing covers UMCOR’s administrative costs, as UMCOR receives no apportionment funds.

- All Advance projects are related to annual conferences, central conferences, partner churches or interfaith organizations. They are screened by the General Board of Global Ministries and authorized by The Advance Committee.

- Giving through The Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world.

- Churches and annual conferences receive Advance credit by having their gifts included in each year’s total giving by the annual conference.

- The Advance tracks each gift and ensures that gifts reach their intended recipients. This methodology provides an additional layer of accountability when you give.
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 or fathers 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 to 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/agcc](http://www.vaumc.org/agcc) or contact Casey Torrence at 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 138; or [CaseyTorrence@vaumc.org](mailto:CaseyTorrence@vaumc.org).

**Commission on Disabilities**

**Embracing the inclusiveness of Christ** through:

- Accessibility, Program and Respite Grants and Scholarships
- Annual Conference accessibility
- Camp Rainbow Connection
- Disability Awareness Sunday (Feb. 2, 2014)
- 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 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 Martha Stokes at the Center for Inclusivity and Lay leadership Excellence: 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100, ext. 153 or 154; or [MarthaStokes@vaumc.org](mailto:MarthaStokes@vaumc.org).
Youth in Action Mission Opportunities

Youth in mission can be found across the conference sharing the love of God by being God’s hands and feet. The conference website (www.vaumc.org/youth) lists mission opportunities for youth with information on location, age, cost and length of trip.

**B1 - a fasting campaign** that encourages youth to abstain from food for 24 hours and to connect with injustices in the world. B1 provides an opportunity to learn ways that The United Methodist Church responds to the needs of others around the world through love and justice. The goal of B1 is to raise money for projects that empower the poor and disempower unjust systems. For more information go to: www.fasttodaychangetomorrow.org

**Youth Service Fund - For youth by youth** Throughout the year, youths raise money so other youths can participate in mission. Churches can apply for grants from the Youth Service Fund by submitting an application by Feb. 24.

**Voices of Youth:** 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, and they come to understand the fruits of personal involvement in mission. Musical concerts are held in local Virginia churches to challenge church members to become involved in God’s mission. For more information: VISIT www.vaumc.org/youth or contact Derrick Parson at the office of Ministries with Young People: 1-800-768-6040, ext. 135; or (804) 521-1135; or DerrickParson@vaumc.org.

Virginia United Methodist Health & Relief

The ministries of the Health & Relief Team touch many lives, providing service throughout the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. We value our relationship with the Virginia Conference and feel privileged to be a part of this ministry team. We are grateful for all of the support received each year from individuals, congregations and communities. Thank you. If you or someone you know is seeking assistance, please contact us.

- **UMFS**
  - 866-558-3533
  - www.umfs.org
- **Wesley Housing Development Corporation**
  - 703-642-3830
  - www.wesleyhousing.org
- **Heart Havens**
  - 877-442-8368
  - www.hearthavens.org
- **Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.**
  - 888-673-1031
  - www.vumh.org

We have differing missions but share a common ministry: To invest in supportive communities for seniors, families, children and people with disabilities.
Special Sundays in 2014

Special Sundays in The United Methodist Church are intended to illustrate the nature and calling of the church and are celebrated annually. Special Sundays are placed on the calendar in the context of the Christian year, which is designed to make clear the calling of the church as the people of God, and to give persons the opportunity to contribute offerings to special programs. Your support is critical to the survival of these important ministries (listed below) and for sharing God’s gifts around the world.

Six General Conference-approved Special Sundays with offerings are listed in **boldface type**. Special Sundays, or time periods, with Virginia Conference-approved offerings are marked with an asterisk (*). Other times of special recognition approved by the General Conference and/or Virginia Conference are also listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Ministry Sunday</td>
<td>(any Sunday in the year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) Awareness Sunday</td>
<td>(any Sunday in the year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td><strong>Human Relations Day</strong>                                (Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday observance)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Disability Awareness Sunday                                               (First Sunday in February)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td><strong>One Great Hour of Sharing</strong> (UMCOR)                           (Fourth Sunday of Lent)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Native American Ministries Sunday                                     (Third Sunday of Easter)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Older Adult Recognition Sunday                                        (First Sunday in May)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Rural Life Sunday                                                    (First Sunday in May)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Heritage Sunday                                                      (Sunday on or preceding Aldersgate Day, May 24)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mother’s Day/Father’s Day</strong></td>
<td>Samaritan Fund Offering*                  (Virginia United Methodist Homes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The month of June</td>
<td>Virginia Annual Conference Offering*                                  National Hunger Awareness Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>Children’s Day                                                (Second Sunday in June)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td><strong>Peace with Justice Sunday</strong>                                    (First Sunday after Pentecost)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The month of September</td>
<td>Christian Education Sunday*                            (Any Sunday in September)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Industrial &amp; Commercial Ministries*                                        (Sunday in September nearest Labor Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The month of October</td>
<td>Virginia Advocate (conference magazine) Promotion Campaign</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 5</td>
<td><strong>World Communion Sunday</strong>                                         (First Sunday in October)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>Children’s Sabbath                                          (Second Sunday in October or any time during the year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>Laity Sunday                                                   (Third Sunday in October)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9</td>
<td>Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday                                 (Second Sunday in November)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 30</td>
<td><strong>United Methodist Student Day</strong>                                      (Last Sunday in November)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The month of December</td>
<td>UMFS of Virginia Month*</td>
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