

# The Virginia Christian

July, 2025

[www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian](http://www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian)



## Clergy/Congregation Happenings

**Dick Garrett**, the long-time chairman of the District 8 men's ministry, passed away Friday, July 11. Dick was a loyal servant of Christ and a faithful fixture at First Christian Church, Hampton. His life will be celebrated on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 am at the church. You can contact Rev. Debbie Ott of First Christian Church for more current information at [debbieott757@gmail.com](mailto:debbieott757@gmail.com).

## Two Ordinations Coming Up:

**Laticia Lee** will be ordained on Saturday, August 30 at 2:00 pm at Bon Air Christian Church, 2071 Buford Rd., North Chesterfield, VA.

**Morganne Talley** will be ordained Saturday, July 26 at 3:00 pm at Timberlake Christian Church, 20261 Lynchburg Highway, Lynchburg, VA.

**Piedmont District Convention** 

**143<sup>rd</sup> SESSION**

**JULY 31 - AUGUST 2, 2025**

Workshops Location  
New College Institute  
191 Fayette Street  
Martinsville,

**WORKSHOP PRESENTERS**

 BISHOP VALERIE MELVIN	 REV. BILL SPANGLER-DUNNING	 REV. KEVIN McNEIL	
 REV. DR. WILLIAM LEE	 REV. CATINA MARTIN	 REV. DR. JACQUALYN MCHENRY	 DEACON WANONA REDD

Rev. Kara Fleurizard - Moderator, Piedmont District Convention

# Dream Seed Grant

<https://www.ccinva.org/grantministry>

## How the Dream Came to be?

(A Tale of Two Stories that form the underlying purpose and focus for the Virginia Regional Dream/Seed Grant Funds)

### The Elsie Tease Principle:

Elsie Tease was a member of Battery Park Christian Church in Richmond. She asked for permission and the blessing of her minister and congregational board to take up "above and beyond" offerings from her church to create a fund that would be used to help people move into and/or live at The Summit. A few months later a check was received for \$124.86. It began with an idea and a few small gifts of change (coins mostly) that inspired something beyond the size of those nickels and dimes. This gift became the Seed money for the Care Fund to come alongside people moving into the Summit. **The Elsie Tease Principle is that sometimes a small gift of funds can help a small idea/ministry grow into something larger.**

### The Carrie Burwell Principle:

Carrie Burwell was a member at Rocky Mount Christian Church in Rocky Mount. She went to her minister with the nearly unbelievable idea that "We need to build a Home for the Aging in Virginia." Her minister replied to her with words often spoken when ideas are seemingly too large to fully comprehend how they could ever come true, "Well, we will need money for that to happen." So, Carrie Burwell left her house to the Region in her will. This gift became the seed money for The Summit. **The Carrie Burwell Principle is that sometimes ideas for new ways of ministry are so huge and unimaginable that they need a significant starter gift to allow others to believe it is possible.**

### The Three Grant Funds and what they are intended to support:

Each year the interest from the designated endowment will be received and utilized with the following purpose:

1. CARE FUND: 40% will be designated for the Care Fund. The Care fund is intended to provide solidarity grants to individuals wishing to move into The Summit. These grants and selection of recipients shall be the ministry and responsibility of the Retirement Center Board.
2. Congregational Dream/Seed Fund: 40% will be designated for seed money to the Region for offering grants to congregations and other organizations of the Region with a priority given for ministries to or with Seniors, but other ministries may also be given consideration. \*
3. Region & Beyond Dream/Seed Fund: 20% will be designated for other Regional or General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). \*

- Grant Funds 2 & 3 shall be the ministry and responsibility of the Administrative Council of the Region

### Criteria for Awarding Funds 2 & 3

1. The grant requestor must hold membership in an organization that has membership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
2. The requested ministry must have the approval and support of the leadership of that congregation or ministry.
3. The ministry must meet the "Spirit" of being a New or innovated ministry. These funds are not meant to support ongoing budgets.
4. It meets either the "Elsie Tease or Carrie Burwell Principle"
5. Priority will be given to grant requests that address issues related to seniors and/or involve more than one Disciples congregation or ministry.

### How to apply for a Dream/Seed Grant:

1. Simply follow this link or use the QR Code to fill out the short but important grant request form.
2. Develop a strong narrative to help the Administrative Committee understand your ministry idea.
3. Get feedback and support from your congregational leaders.
4. Be available to join the Ad-Council meeting to answer questions.
5. Plan to share your work/idea/story with the wider church.

<https://www.ccinva.org/grantministry>



## Craig Springs – Kitchen Renovation Project:

Camp numbers are growing across the region and more groups are booking the facility. We are excited to be on the way to renovating the kitchen at Craig Springs. We need your help to raise money to support this project. It was a dream of over 42 years ago and now it is becoming a reality.

Craig Springs and the Administrative Council of the Christian Church (DOC) in Virginia announce the launch of the Kitchen Renovation Project and Campaign! See Digital Magazine/Brochure here and See inspirational Video here about the deeper why's of this project. If you would like a personal presentation to be made at your church about this project please let me know at [bsdinvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:bsdinvirginia@gmail.com)



# Save the Date All-Interims Gathering



**Monday, August 25  
6:00 pm Central  
Join us via Zoom –  
[DisciplesInterims@gmail.com](mailto:DisciplesInterims@gmail.com)  
for the link**



## **BMR2026** BLACK MINISTERS RETREAT

### **RESILIENCE!** REMEMBERING, RECLAIMING, & RECOMMITTING TO BLACK COMMUNITIES - HEBREWS 12:1-3



*Save The Date*  
**March 10 – 12, 2026  
Norfolk, Virginia**

Worship \* Communal Singing \* Powerful Preaching \*  
Fellowship \* Black Philanthropy Workshop \* TopGolf \* Yoga on  
the Beach \* Musical Entertainment \* Relaxation



**DISCIPLES**  
Home Missions

[www.discipleshomemissions.org](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org)

[https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm\\_events/black-ministers-retreat-2025/](https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm_events/black-ministers-retreat-2025/)

## Virginia Regional Mission Trip

It has been over a month since 81 disciples returned home from our third annual mission trip. We not only served the survivors of Hurricane Helene and others, we also grew spiritually and personally. Each night, worship was led by different youth and young adult groups. We had t-shirts that had our scripture verse for the week printed on them, we had morning watch and lunch devotionals. We also learned from Disciples Peace Intern Ruthie Weeks and enjoyed a bluegrass concert. We are busy planning next year's trip. We will return to Western North Carolina, June 14-19, 2026. Registration will open up in January.



Disciple Women of Virginia

# 2025 FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT PUTTING DOWN ROOTS



*Galatians 6:9 ESV*

***And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.***

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming Disciple Women's retreat, where we aim to make a significant difference.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Three Keynotes!

Rev. Wendy Wilson of Unity Christian Church and Rev. Laticia Lee of the Ministry Church will help us dig deep as we learn how to plant hope for women in our communities during three sessions.

### Entertainment

Open Mic, Line, and Liturgical Dance

### Learning Opportunities

Rev. Dr. Joy Brittan: What did Paul really say about Women?  
Drawing from Paul's letters

Rev. Carolyn Garnes Reproductive Justice

Rev. Catina Martin-"Blossoming" -Art

Becky Hill-St. Ignatius Spiritual Practices

Dr. Evonne Wimbush, Woman to Woman Presentation

Cathy Law- North Carolina Mission Trip

### Special Luncheon

Cabinet presentations

Rev. Joyce Harville, Guest

### Activities OR free time

Tiffanie Hairston-Zumba

Gentle Yoga

Lisa French-Wixed

"I Received a Cricut Machine!  
Now, How Do I Use It? - Rocky  
Mount CC, Betty Handy, Leader.  
**BRING YOUR CRICUT MACHINE!**

Crochet and Knitting Circles  
Bring your yarn and needles

Tiffanie Hairston- Liturgical Dance Instruction

Clergy Panel: Is God Calling Me? Panel on Discernment

### WORSHIP

Early morning worship  
Memorial service

### More Information

 [www.discipleswomenva.org](http://www.discipleswomenva.org)



SCAN ME

**REGISTER HERE!**

**OCTOBER  
10-  
12TH**

**SKELTON 4-H  
CENTER -SMITH  
MOUNTAIN LAKE**

775 HERMITAGE RD,  
WIRTZ, VA



Virginia Disciples Women/DWF  
 2025 Fall Disciples Women's Retreat  
 at the Skelton 4-H Center, October 10-12, 2025  
 Smith Mountain Lake



**THEME: PUTTING DOWN ROOTS**

Retreat Leaders

Rev. Wendy Wilson, Pastor, Unity Christian Church, Radford  
 Leticia Lee, Pastor, Ministry Church, Richmond

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check-in begins at 3:00 p.m. on Friday with dinner at 6:00 p.m.  
 Program begins at 7:00 p.m. The retreat ends after morning worship with lunch to-go.

**FULL REGISTRATION COST** (Based on occupancy)

Includes housing, meals, linens, and registration

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| _____ \$338 (single)             | _____ \$313 (Single-First Timer Discount) |
| _____ \$253 (Double, per person) | _____ \$228 (Double-First Timer Discount) |
| _____ \$225 (Triple, per person) | _____ \$200 (Triple-First Timer Discount) |

**COMMUTER COST**

**#1 Commuter Cost per person \$115**

(Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, no housing)

**#2 Commuter Cost per person \$91**

(Sat lunch and dinner, no housing)

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS SEPTEMBER 19, 2025**

We will once again have a "Talents for Mission" Market.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will make something to sell for Mission.

Roommate(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have difficulty walking? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

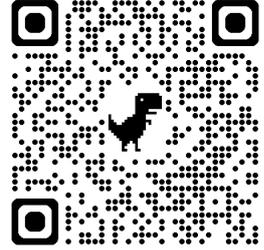
Special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Special diet: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Christian Church in Virginia, 1290 Enterprise Drive,  
 Lynchburg, VA 24501 or Register On-Line and pay by credit or debit card [here](#)  
 or visit [www.discipleswomenva.org](http://www.discipleswomenva.org)

# Virginia Disciples Women Scholarship in Virginia

DW Scholarship - Full Application Here: <https://www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian>



DW Scholarship - Page 1

Office Use Only

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Application Received \_\_\_\_\_

## **Virginia Disciples Women Scholarship in Virginia**

The Virginia Disciples Women Scholarship Fund was established to assist women preparing for the Christian Ministry, as well as to assist female ministers already ordained or commissioned with further education.

The amount available each year is determined by the amount in the fund. The amount of the scholarship award is based on financial needs and the number of applications (up to \$1,500).

### GUIDELINES

1. The applicant must live in Virginia and be a member of a local Virginia congregation.
2. The applicant must be a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for at least one year prior to making application.
3. Funds are only provided to applicants who are currently attending an Association of Theological Schools.
4. Applicants pursuing a Master of Divinity Degree must be under the care of the Commission on Ministry in Virginia. Ordained or commissioned applicants requesting financial assistance for further education must be currently serving a congregation within the Virginia Region.
5. Due to limited funds, applicants must show financial need.
6. A completed application form must be received by August 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Applications are to be mailed to the Virginia Disciples Women's Scholarship Fund, c/o Christian Church in Virginia, 1290 Enterprise Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24502,
7. The Virginia Disciple Women Cabinet will review applications at the September cabinet meeting. Applicants will be notified of a decision within a week after review. Scholarship Funds are mailed to the institution.
8. Scholarships are now available for continuing education for active female clergy in the Virginia Region pursuing advanced theological education. At the time of submission, applicants must be currently enrolled in the class or classes for which the scholarship is requested. All clergy must have standing with the Region of Virginia.

### **Virginia Disciples Women Scholarship Application**

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

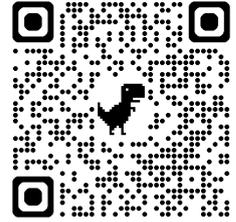
Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School or Temporary Address (if applicable):  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Virginia Disciples Women Scholarship in Virginia

DW Scholarship - Full Application Here: <https://www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian>

DW Scholarship - Page 2



Office Use Only

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Application Received \_\_\_\_\_

Email:

\_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of application: M.Div. \_\_\_\_\_ D.Min \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE STATE BRIEFLY YOUR PLANS AND GOALS

## SEMINARY INFORMATION

Current Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Seminary:

\_\_\_\_\_

Entrance Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Previous institutions attended and dates you attended.

## CHURCH ACTIVITY

I am under the care of the Commission on Ministry. Yes No

Local: Please identify home congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

## FINANCIAL NEED

Cost of education for one year

Tuition: \_\_\_\_\_

Books: \_\_\_\_\_

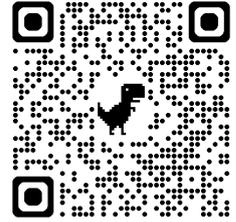
Housing: \_\_\_\_\_

Other expenses:

## Virginia Disciples Women Scholarship in Virginia

DW Scholarship - Full Application Here: <https://www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian>

DW Scholarship - Page 3



Office Use Only

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Application Received \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Resources Available:

Yearly Income: \_\_\_\_\_

Savings: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Scholarships received or applied:

\_\_\_\_\_

What else would you like to share?

A picture for publicity will be required if a scholarship is awarded.

Signature of Application: \_\_\_\_\_