

The Virginia Christian

January, 2026

www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian



Church Member Contact Information

Are you a church member who wants to have emails and blogs from the Regional Minister? If you do, fill out this Google Form and we will add you to the contact list so you can keep up to date on what is happening in the region.

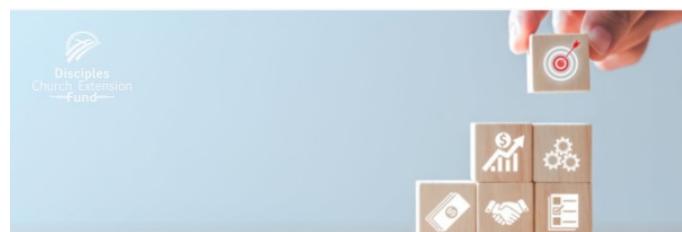
<https://forms.gle/P2wLAKzBPv6UZXAs9>



DECF's Initial Consultation Will Help Guide Your Steps in 2026

Is your community of faith ready to dive into the planning process for its next project or the future of its mission? Whether it's considering construction, looking to update its place of worship, reimagining its ministry's vision, evaluating its facilities usage, or beginning to explore financial services, Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF)'s initial consultation is the first place to start to address whatever your faith community's needs are in the new year.

Are you unsure of what your congregation, camp, or seminary's challenges are? An initial consultation with Richard Williams, your Building and Capital Services Advisor, is the first step. Contact him at 317-635-6500, ext. 2537; and/or rwilliams@disciplescef.org.



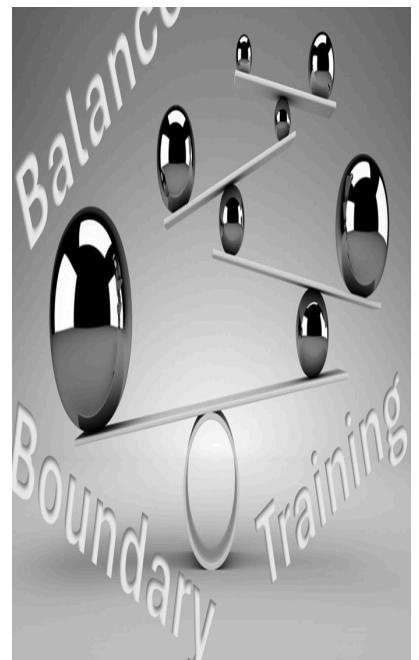
Balanced Boundary Training

Register here: 2 options currently available -

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

Balanced Boundary Training is a ministry of Revs Amy and Bill Spangler-Dunning. This is a new take and approach to boundary training for clergy and laity. At the core of the training/experience is the belief that boundary violations occur as a direct relationship to our life being out of balance. As human beings, we constantly adjust to keep our life going and “balanced.” The ways in which we make these adjustments can either be healthy or not so healthy. This boundary training seeks to provide tools and skills to help everyone make solid healthy choices to keep our lives in healthy balance. It is hoped that this proactive approach will reduce the need or frequency of unhealthy boundary behaviors. We accomplish this through a mixture of presentations and interactive activities. This experience is more spiritual retreat than simply a training lecture. We hope that this new approach will enrich the God-Created wholeness of who people are while improving the overall safety and health of clergy and laity throughout the church.

Rev. Amy Spangler-Dunning, LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) & M.Div (Ordained Minister) brings together the mental health and ministry worlds to provide awareness and tools for maintaining our balance and boundaries in this world. Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning, M.Div (Ordained Minister) brings his 25 years in regional ministry to connect the “what” with “why” for boundaries for clergy and laity.



You can make this happen!

It is amazing how a few moments with faith mentors on the Holy Ground of a church camp can stick with us our whole lives! For those who have experienced such Holy moments at Craig Springs, you know how much it changed your life and still lives in you. Now, its time for us to give back to the place that formed our foundations so that the next generations can find faith, hope and the love of our God at Craig Springs.

In the last few years, we have renovated and improved the facilities. We have secured stronger and more skilled staff to help maintain the facility and provide hospitality for all. Our Summer camp numbers have finally begun to rise again.



Because of all this work and energy, new outside groups are finding us and choosing to hold their own camps and church retreats at Craig Springs. The next step in the journey to ensure that Craig Springs is preserved for the next generations, is to renovate the kitchen. I am asking you, as one whose life was

changed by Holy Ground moments, to give a gift to the Kitchen fund so ensure that Craig Springs can continue to be the place where lives are changed and faith leaders are raised up to change the church and the world!

Return the pledge card or send a check to The Chrisitan Church in Virginia – Kitchen Fund, 1290 Enterprise Dr. Lynchburg VA 24502. OR scan the QR code to see promo videos, plans and give a gift online. It is going to take all of us, but with God and YOU, we can make this happen!



VA Camping Ministry | CCINVA

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

NATURE CAMP 2026
COUNSLOR APPLICATION HERE:
<https://www.ccinva.org/virginiacampingministry>



VIRGINIA CAMPING MINISTRY - 2026 Held at Craig Springs Camp



- 6/20 - 6/26: Nature Camp
- 6/28 - 7/3: Special Camp
- 7/5 - 7/10: Triple 1 Camp
- 7/12 - 7/16: New Covenant Camp
- 7/13 - 7/18: CAMPDD
- 7/19 - 7/24: Triple 2 Camp
- 7/24 - 7/26: Family Camp



VIRGINIA CAMPING MINISTRY - 2026 camps held at other Virginia venues

- 6/13 - 6/20: TREC Camp
- 6/14 - 6/19: Intergenerational Mission Trip
- 8/3 - 8/7: Adult Hiking camp



In Partnership with

Piedmont District Camp

Radford University

June 16 - 19, 2026

(More Information To Follow)



Created To Be Me Camp

June 21 - 27, 2026

Camp Caroline, NC



DISCIPLES YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB

Join us!

Young adults are invited to join our Virtual Young Adult Book Club as we read *Staying at the Table* by Rev. Terri Hord Owens and explore what it means to be a Disciple in today's world.

Together, we'll gather in a welcoming space, led by Disciple young adults, to reflect, question, and connect—engaging faith, identity, justice, and belonging through thoughtful conversation and shared learning.



February 24

March 3, 10, & 17



7:00-8:15 PM EST



Zoom



Register Today!



REV. TERRI HORD OWENS

Foreword by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II

Staying at the Table

BEING THE CHURCH
WE SAY WE ARE

Craig Springs Kitchen Renovation project begins to receive gifts:

Our Goal is 1.2 million. Over the last months I have learned of individuals, churches, past campers & counselors who have given \$10, \$50, \$1000, \$5000, \$8000 and more to support this project. This is more than a building funding project, it is an affirmation of a ministry by congregations and individuals across the whole region. I have received word that congregations of all sizes are having bake sales while others are putting a set amount in their next year's budget. Blacksburg Christian Church voted unanimously to send \$100,000 to support the kitchen renovation project to help enhance and protect the ministry we do at Craig Springs. We give thanks for this gift and all the gifts that have and will come in to help make this long awaited kitchen renovation happen.

We still have a ways to go but the energy and spirit are heading in the right direction. If you or your church would like to contribute/pledge toward this ministry project see the resources below. If it would be helpful to have myself and a small group come and talk about the details and deeper purpose of this project, please reach out to me and I can arrange a presentation. Again, I thank you for all the amazing things God and the people of this region are beginning to experience together. We really are stronger together!

Here is a video that expresses the WHY it matters: <https://vimeo.com/1078484440/1fb9b918d7>

Downloadable version of brochure:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CJL71maLEb52elGgSv1zP8OZgBkaeLQy/view>

or online version: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/fce928e4-5ca7-44af-84d6-4e9b3a47b33b>

First Christian Church, Salem, VA - is seeking an energetic person to work part-time in providing beautiful music for our spirited church. This person will coordinate with the Pastors and Worship Committee to provide music that enhances and supports our worship experience. Anticipated hours are **17 hours per month** and salary range is **\$400-\$500 per month** commensurate with ability and experience.

Qualifications - Music background/experience in churches or other music settings; Familiarity with directing or directing experience; Comfortable/experience with public speaking.

Duties and Responsibilities - Coordinate music for all worship services including selecting congregational hymns; Provide for special music as needed; Direct the adult Chancel Choir; Participate in worship services; Provides necessary information weekly to church office for bulletin; Support the mission of First Christian Church.

Interested applicants may mail a cover letter and resume to: First Christian Church
- ATTN: Admin. Committee - Choir Director, 712 Front Ave., Salem, VA 24153

Or send a cover letter and resume as an attachment by email to: fccsalemva@gmail.com with subject line: Choir Director application.



Open Ministry Positions

If you are interested, contact Bill Spangler-Dunning at bsdinvirginia@gmail.com

Chalice Christian Church. 5612 Haden Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23455 is seeking a ¾ to full-time minister.

Craig Healing Springs Christian Church. 6 Grannys Branch Road, New Castle, VA is seeking a part-time minister.

Doe Run Christian Church. 3536 Doe Run Road, Rocky Mount, VA is seeking a minister (parsonage included).

Fayette Street Christian Church. 420 Fayette St., Martinsville, VA is seeking a pulpit supply to part-time minister.

Hillsville Christian Church. 120 Edgewood Drive, Hillsville, VA is seeking a full-time minister.

Loudon Avenue Christian Church. 17276 General Puller Highway, Deltaville, VA is seeking a ¾ to full-time pastor.

Philippi Christian Church. 7521 Trinity Church Road, Church Road, VA is seeking a part-time minister (mostly pulpit supply).

Slash Christian Church. 11353 Mt. Hermon Rd., Ashland, VA is looking for a part-time youth minister. Contact Michael Weeks at pastormichael@slashcc.org for more information.

Snowville Christian Church. 5436 Lead Mine Road, Hiwassee, VA is seeking a pulpit supply to part-time minister.

Timberlake Christian Church. 20261 Lynchburg Highway, Lynchburg, VA is seeking a full-time interim minister.

Westside Christian Church. 535 Cherokee Road, Portsmouth, VA is seeking pulpit supply to part-time minister.

Summer Internship Opportunity

Allisonville Christian Church in Indianapolis has a Student Ministry Internship this coming summer. The applicants will need to at least have finished their junior year of college and we are accepting applications from both undergraduate and graduate students.

ACC's internship runs from May 26 until August 10, but the start and end dates can be flexible depending on the intern's academic schedule and responsibilities. Our intern will work closely with me and I will be the direct supervisor. The internship will primarily support ACC's youth ministry but will be able to work with other summer programming at the church as well. There are also opportunities for the intern to explore parts of ministry they are curious about or want to try out.

The stipend is \$8,000 for the summer and housing will be provided. Allisonville is a fantastic teaching congregation with a history of hosting student ministers from Christian Theological Seminary and interns from other schools as well. It's a very robust and active church with lots of opportunities for an intern to learn and have cool experiences as they discover more about ministry and themselves

If you or someone you know has any questions or want to learn more, you can email me at internship@allisonville.org. To apply and see the full job description, you can go to: <https://www.allisonville.org/internship>. The application deadline is February 2.

Peace and blessings,
Rev. John Jackson, Associate Minister of Faith Formation



ARPR NEWS

The ARPR team took a trip to the Tennessee Region. The workshop and training was a great success and I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to Pastor Kevin and the Regional Administrator Ms. Joan Hale for their outstanding work in coordinating and hosting our team in Tennessee. I am deeply appreciative to God for our safe travels and grateful to the entire team: Pastor Greg, Pastor Vernie, Pastor Ben, Dr. Janice, Pastor Jennifer, Tom (Jennifer's husband) and Marquitta. They facilitated and trained so outstanding.



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>

