

The Virginia Christian

September, 2025

www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian



Clergy/Congregation Happenings

Michael D. Burnett was Commissioned on Sunday, September 7 at 2:00 pm at Hilton Christian Church. You can send him congratulations at mdburnett7@gmail.com



Philippi Christian Church - Interim Needed for Philippi Christian Church, Deltaville VA: October 1 and following. They are open to full-time or part-time but want someone who can journey with them while they begin to seek their next minister. Email me if interested at bsdinvirginia@gmail.com.

Rev. Michael Cook will retire at the end of September and so if you get a chance send him a note of support and congratulations. pastorphilippideltaville@gmail.com

Chaplain Positions Available in Richmond Area:

VCU Health is currently accepting applications for three full-time chaplain positions and one part-time as needed position.

Pediatric Chaplain (NICU/Complex care clinic)

<https://careers.vcuhealth.org/us/en/job/R37957/Pediatric-Chaplain-CHoR>

Part Time / As needed

PRN Chaplain

<https://careers.vcuhealth.org/us/en/job/R37456/Chaplain-Spiritual-Care-PRN>

Open Ministry Positions

Bethany Christian Church, 3115 Fleming Ave., Roanoke, VA is seeking a part-time bi-vocational minister.

Craig Healing Springs Christian Church, New Castle, VA is seeking a minister.

Doe Run Christian Church, 3536 Doe Run Rd., Rocky Mount, VA is seeking a minister. If you are interested contact me at bsdinvirginia@gmail.com

Hillsville Christian Church, 120 Edgewood Drive, Hillsville, VA is seeking an interim minister and will soon begin the process of searching for a full-time minister. Reach out to me if you are interested at bsdinvirginia@gmail.com.

Loudon Avenue Christian Church, 730 Loudon Ave., NW, Roanoke, VA 24016 is seeking a full-time minister.

Philippi Christian Church, 17276 General Puller Hwy., Deltaville, VA is seeking an interim pastor. Contact me for more information at bsdinvirginia@gmail.com

Poole Christian Church, 7521 Trinity Church Road., Church Road, VA 23833 seeks a part-time minister (mostly pulpit supply). Contact me for further information at bsdinvirginia@gmail.com

Saumsville Christian Church, Saumsville, VA is seeking a part-time minister. Contact me for more information at bsdinvirginia@gmail.com

Slash Christian Church, located at 11353 Mt. Hermon Rd., Ashland, VA 23005 is looking for a part-time youth minister. Contact Michael Weeks at pastormichael@slashcc.org for more information.



Craig Springs Kitchen Renovation project begins to receive gifts:

Our Goal is 1.2 million and we already have currently in the Kitchen Renovation Fund Approximately 350,000. 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. Something like this is more than a building funding project as 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. As of this month, 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>



Disciples of Christ Historical Society

The Disciples of Christ Historical Society is looking for a bus to be donated to the Society to transport historical items. If you have a bus that is in good working condition that you wish to donate, please email info@discipleshistory.org.



Hurricane Recovery Work in Western NC - Quarterly Mission Zoom call

Starting in September the region will have a quarterly zoom call focused on the continued Hurricane Recovery Work in Western NC. On Sunday September 28, 2025 6pm Tzlil McDonald, Project Director for NECHAMA's Combating Antisemitism Initiative, "How antisemitism shows up after disasters (and what we can do to counter it)". NECHAMA is Jewish disaster services and has partnered with Week of Compassion for disaster recovery work.

January 2026-specific date and time to be announced, Panel discussion with some of the organizations we worked with in June updating us on recovery process. April 2026-overview of June 2026 trip.

On our June Regional Mission trip, Team Green led by Rev. Michael Weeks partnered with NECHAMA. The team began their week in Black Mountain, spending two days helping to repair a 100+ year-old home that will be donated to a family displaced by the hurricane. They installed insulation, hung ceiling drywall, and carefully sanded and mudded the walls. On the final day, the team partnered with a local Native American organization Medicine Wheel Way to clear storm debris from a community field used for gatherings and events, and to help bury a sewage pipe

If you would like to be part of the zoom on Sunday September 28 at 6pm, please join via zoom. Please consider having a "watch party" at your church.

Zoom link is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87833823280?pwd=ZjCaBjgwNdrhVTObt43mcIBxOWWtbM.1>
For more information email Rev. Dr. Jonathan Webster jonathanwebsterbcc@gmail.com



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>

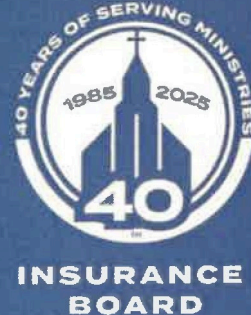


Copy and Paste this link to Register:

https://events.zoom.us/jv/AjtC6ejGXKis1Oz2EDTHelTHZoa5G0gqeJ4L219SORNuOGEptfS6~ArUiYiqn_c8WuvvFBDxb8lOhSF1CnuMRcaePUfQF7vMb7RmM_PnyAXzmg

Insurance Board Presents:

Active Shooter Training Webinar for Your Ministry



Our active shooter training equips ministries to respond effectively in an emergency.

It covers recognizing potential threats, understanding evacuation routes, practicing lockdown procedures, and communicating with law enforcement while assisting others.

REGISTER HERE

*Registration is limited. A recording will be available on our website after the event.



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025
2 PM ET via ZOOM

THE SPEAKER

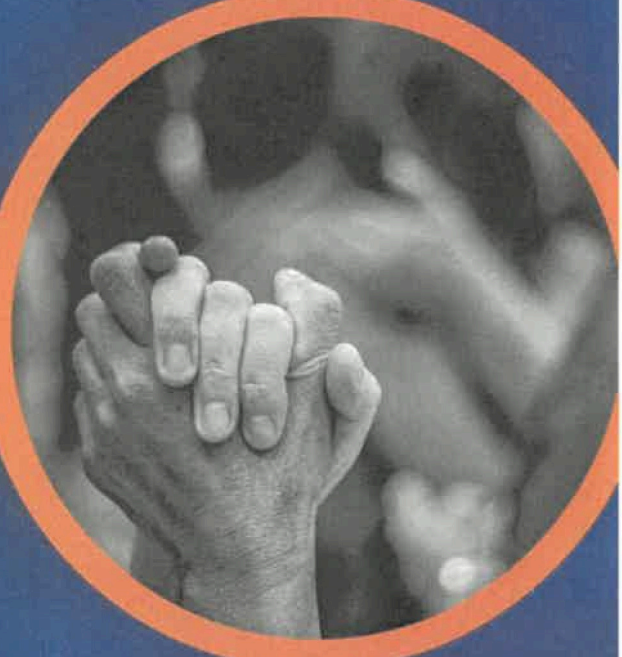
CHAD CUNNINGHAM

Insurance Board's
Director of Loss Control

Prior to joining Insurance Board, Chad spent 6 years as Vice President of Education and Training for Navigate360 (formerly ALICE Training Institute), an active shooter preparedness company. In that role, he led teams of trainers and curriculum designers in delivering proactive response training to churches, schools, businesses, and community organizations nationwide. Chad was also the first national trainer for the ALICE Training Institute in the United States, where over the course of 15 years he trained thousands of individuals.

Chad also brings 24 years of law enforcement experience with the University of Akron Police Department, where he achieved the rank of Lieutenant. For most of his career, he led the Community Policing and Training Division and was an active member of the department's SWAT team.

Chad's combined background in law enforcement, specialized training, and community safety equips him to guide ministries in strengthening their risk management and loss control efforts.





https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm_events/black-ministers-retreat-2025/



New Church Ministry

How does a place of worship move beyond activism into true community organizing? In this webinar, guest Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker will join host and Minister of New Church Strategies Rev. Dr. Jose Martinez to explore the difference between organizing and activism, and why proximity has the power to transform congregations and their neighborhoods. Dr. Dietra is a respected trainer who often consults and collaborates around her sustained work in youth justice, detention/prison/jail, and faith justice movements. Join New Church Ministry on October 1 at 3:00 PM EST. Register

Can't make it? Sign up anyway! All registrants will receive a link to a recording of this event <https://newchurchministry.org/>

Register here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hEnkTHceSeahErCBiT8XYg#/registration



SAVE THE DATE
Youth Lock-In
January 23 - 24, 2026
For Middle & High School Youth

Where:

Fairview Christian Church
2701 Fairview Ave., Lynchburg, VA

Bring:

Overnight Bag & Something to Sleep on
Your Bible, Pen & Paper