

The Virginia Christian

December, 2025

www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian



Dear all,

A quick note to say thank you again for all the great ministry happening across the congregations in the Virginia Region. You make me proud to serve as your Regional Minister! You all are making a difference in this world and TOGETHER we are Stronger. Please enjoy this thank you video for supporting our ministry together and have a very Merry Christmas.

<https://youtu.be/nx52AQ9aD3U>

Rev. BSD



The Virginia Youth
Council invites middle
and high school youth to
join us at Fairview
Christian Church

8:30pm - 9am
bring overnight bag,
pillows and blankets

Register @ ccinva.org/youthministries by
Jan. 9th

Register here: 2 options currently available -

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

Balance 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.



Disciples Peace Fellowship

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2026 Summer Peace Intern

BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE & JUSTICE

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Disciples Peace Fellowship is now accepting applications for the 2026 Summer Peace Intern Program!

Learn more and apply at:

<https://www.disciplespeace.org/apply>

VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Virginia Council of Churches 81st Annual Day of Celebration was held November 6, 2025. It was held at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Richmond, VA., Rev. Rodney Hunter, Pastor. The keynote presenter was Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale Founder and Senior Pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA. Florence (Flo) Parcell and Margretha Kellam, attended the Celebration.

It was a day of worship, sistership fellowship and small group help shops focusing on engaging, equipping, empowering, envisioning and anti-racism pro-reconciliation. The Celebration was well attended. The Virginia Council of Churches is an ecumenical Celebration which is comprised of the different denominations represented in churches throughout Virginia. This year's annual event highlighted women. The Small Group Help Shops were: A. Engage: led by Rev. Robin Mines serving on the Executive Boards of Virginia Interfaith Council for Public Policy and Coming Together Virginia from Portsmouth, VA. B. Equip: Rev. Mildred Best, retired director of Chaplaincy Services & Pastoral Education, UVA Health in Charlottesville, VA. The Ms. Shelly Wood, LCSW, Clinical Services Director and Therapist for The Women's Initiative in Charlottesville, VA. Macedonia Christian United Church of Christ, Norfolk, VA. Elder Susane Hooker Taylor, VCCARPR Team Co-Chair, Supply Pastor, Commissioned Ruling Elder. D. Empower: Dr. Faye Felton, Retired Public School Administration and Participant on the Standing Committee for the Diocese of Southern Virginia; and Mrs. Jennifer Gilliam, Supervisory Training Specialist for the Department of Defense at Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Richmond, VA. E. Envision: Rev. Laticia Lee, Pastor; Faith Outreach Organizer, Virginia Interfaith Power & Light: Director of Ministries at Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Richmond, VA.

The denomination with the highest number of persons in attendance was presented a staff. The Disciples of Christ denominations had the highest number of attendees. This was an honor and a celebration for the Christian Church Disciples of Christ. Rev. Thomas Hayes, VCC President presented the staff to Margretha Kellam, President of Disciple Women's Ministry for Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning, Regional Minister of Virginia. Rev. Spangler-Dunning will be taking the staff with him to meetings throughout Virginia for the next year. He will explain how he earned the staff and it will be an opportunity for him to educate and promote the Virginia Council Churches Annual Celebrations. The 82 nd Virginia Council of Churches Annual Day Celebration will be in Suffolk, Thursday, November 5, 2026.

Margretha Kellam
President Virginia Disciple Women's Ministry



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!



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>



Regional Mission Trip

We will return to Western NC for our Fourth Annual Multi-Generational Regional Mission Trip in 2026. Sunday, June 14 will be our travel day, and we will return home on Friday, June 9, 2026. Everyone ages 11 years old and above are welcome to be part of this wonderful and transforming week. The cost will be \$290 per participant. Registration will open up on January 15, 2026. We anticipate registration filling up very quickly. If you have questions, please contact the Mission trip co-leaders: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Webster, jonathanwebsterbcc@gmail.com or 434-774-8494 or Diane Clark, dianewclark@hotmail.com or 804-712-5728.



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.

Unity Christian Church. 400 Tyler Street, Radford, VA is seeking a full-time interim minister.

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

ARPR News



THE ABSALOM JONES EPISCOPAL CENTER FOR RACIAL HEALING®

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The Virginia ARPR Ministry is dedicated in making sure we take continuing educational courses to ensure we are up to date on information pertaining to social justice and tools in combating racism. Two members of our Ministry, Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr. and Marquitta Joyce, sacrificed their free time and attended a webinar on Dismantling Racism presented by the Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing.

Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.-“ It was great to know that a lot of the things they did we, (VA AR/PR), are already doing.”

The webinar focused on the dismantling of racism and like the VA team, the issues were based on biblical principles. There were people gathered from all walks of life, different religions, and that held different church positions. The challenges of relating to how others deal and perceive the issues of racism determining the role for the church of today. We concluded that reconciliation is possible through education and relationship.”



“I definitely forgot what it was like to be on the other side of the table.”. – Marquitta Joyce

Virginia Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Ministry visit the PDC Youth

By Marquitta Joyce

The Virginia Anti-Racism / Pro- Reconciliation Ministry collaborated with the PDC Youth Director, Ms. Wendy Kellam to have a workshop and mental health day for the PDC Youth.

PDC Youth Day was truly unforgettable. Youth from the PDC gathered to openly discuss their experiences with racism and to learn strategies for supporting their mental health. The event provided a welcoming and safe environment where young people felt comfortable voicing their concerns and sharing personal stories. At the same time, adults took part in meaningful conversations focused on building the Kingdom.



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>

