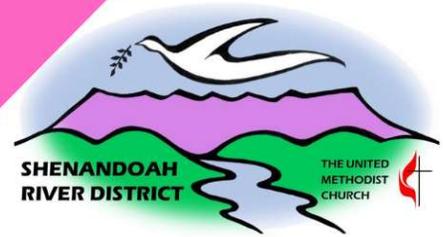


Fourth Annual Shenandoah River District Conference

Camp Overlook
Glovier Chapel
Keezletown, VA

November 8, 2025
10:00 a.m.



**Rev. Sue Hauptert-Johnson,
Resident Bishop
Virginia Annual Conference**

**Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho
Shenandoah River District Superintendent**

**Mr. James Robinson
Shenandoah River District Lay Leader**

**Dr. Susan Schall
Shenandoah River District Assistant Lay Leader**

**Mrs. Deborah French
Shenandoah River District Assistant Lay Leader**

Celebrating the Ministry of Shenandoah River District

Who is Eligible to Vote at District Conference?

“The membership of each district conference shall be composed of the following: all ordained and commissioned clergy, licensed local pastors, lay supply pastors, certified lay ministers, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses and home missionaries related to that district; a church lay leader, chairperson of the church council or its equivalent body, church school superintendent, president of the United Methodist Women, and president of the chartered United Methodist Men from each local church in the district; the district steward from each charge; the lay member of the annual conference from each charge; and three members at large, one of whom shall be a youth, elected by each charge conference.

District officers who are members of the district conference include: the chairperson of the district Council on Ministries or equivalent body, the district stewards, the district trustees, the district treasurer, the district lay leader and associate lay leaders, the president of the district United Methodist Women, the president of the district United Methodist Men, the president of the district United Methodist Youth, the president of the district United Methodist Young Adults, the district coordinators of children, youth, young adult, adult, and family ministries, other district coordinators and directors, five youth members elected by the district youth council and five young adult members elected by the District Council on Ministries (or equivalent body). Special attention shall be given to inclusiveness.”

[THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE –Rules Change 2006.doc (E-mail correspondence from Conference Connectional Ministries Director 9/22/06)]

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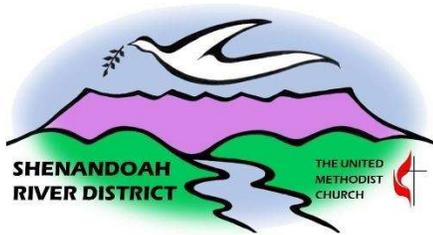
Special Acknowledgements:

Thank you, Camp Overlook for hosting today’s District Conference. Special thanks to Melody Harmon for serving as our worship leader today and Melinda Russell as accompanist. Thank you for blessing us.

Thank you to others that assisted today: Rev. Bertina Westley, Rev. Dr. Susan Schall, Mrs. Deborah French, Mrs. Barbara Phillips, Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez, Rev. Alexis Owens, Rev. Chad Hrbek.

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**2025 District Conference
4th Annual Shenandoah River District
Conference
November 8, 2025**

**District Superintendent
Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho, Presiding**

PRELUDE

OPENING

DS Kyungsuk Cho

WELCOME

Bertina Westley,
President of Camp Overlook Board Of Directors

OPENING PRAYER

Susan Schall, District Associate Lay Leader

***CALL TO WORSHIP** James Robinson, Shenandoah District Lay Leader
Leader: Beloved people of God, come into this house! Stop repeating old words, don't patch what is already unraveling, and prepare for the New Creation breaking into this world!

People: We bring open minds, feeling hearts, and outstretched hands, ready to receive the hope and new life God offers.

Leader: The Spirit goes where we think it shouldn't. Stirring up what we overlook, breathing life into what we thought was gone, God always exceeds our expectations and sets our eyes on new possibilities of what can be.

People: We are here to be restored and revived. We bring all of our shattered dreams and blurred visions, ready to be put together, piece-by-piece, by a Love that never gives up.

Leader: Do you see it? Beneath the autumn leaves covering the ground, the chill of winter's storms, there is a small seed, teeming with life and full of promise.

People: We see it, we lean into this promise of God: all things will be made new.

All: We claim the resurrection promise, we make ourselves open to the new life God offers, and we will come alive with gratefulness for the work God does through us and around us.

***OPENING HYMN**

And Are We Yet Alive UMH 553

CENTERING PRAYER

Debbie French, District Associate Lay Leader

*Oh gracious Creator, you set the stars in the sky that burn brightly around us, even in the darkest parts of our lives. You painted the color on the leaves falling gently all around us. Bless this space, and sanctify each person here. Center us on what is good, true, needed, and holy. May we bring our whole selves before you, trusting in your restorative power and unrelenting Love. Make this time of worship transformative to our hearts, renewing to our minds, encouraging to our souls, and empowering to our hands. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.***

MISSION CENTRAL - DISTRICT CONFERENCE OFFERING

Mission Central's two ministries, The Children's Clothes Closet and Equipment for Caring, are thriving and each offer much needed items to those in need. Regardless of religious background or ethnicity, they strive to be the light and hope for those marginalized persons. They are the hands and feet of Christ, serving an essential ministry of this district. The volunteers and generous donations are what keeps them alive and moving forward, with the promise of God's grace for more abundance to come!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Barbara Phillips, President of Mission Central

God, bless these gifts and the givers of these gifts. Receive them along with every offering we give: our kind words, our prayers, our suffering, our joy, and our time. Bless them, transform them, and spread them as embodiments of your love and grace to all corners of the earth. In Christ we pray, Amen.

***HYMN**

I Will Call Upon the Lord TWFS 2002

VISIONING AND CALIBRATION

DS Cho and Rev. Tommy Stelzl

THE WORK OF THE 2025 SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT CONFERENCE

- Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho, District Superintendent

- Election of District Conference Secretary
- Attendance Insert
- Minutes of the 2024 District Conference
-

- Campus Ministry Report Victor Gómez,
UMC Chaplain at Shenandoah University
Alexis Owens, Pastor at RISE
- Camp Overlook Report Chad Hrbek,
Director of Overlook Retreat and Camp Ministries
- Mission Central Report Barbara Phillips, Artie Frederick
- Election of District Leadership
- Approval of Camp Overlook By Laws – 2025
- Approval of Two representatives to Camp Overlook Board
(Mrs. Donna Abernathy and Rev. Joe Amend)
- Election of 2026 Annual Conference At-Large, Youth and
Young Adult District Delegates

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

DS Cho

INVITATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Have mercy us on, O God, according to your steadfast love. For we know our sins which are always in front of our eyes. We have not loved you as deeply as our own heartbeat.

We have failed to care for your body and for the whole of creation. Forgive us. According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions and cleanse us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain in us a willing spirit.

Free us to know joy and gladness and to live our days in praise.

Pray in Silence

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

THE PEACE

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – TFWS 2257-a,b,c,d

DS Cho

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

....and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

....and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

....through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty *God*, now and for ever.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever.**

Amen.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

Most bountiful God, we give you thanks for the world you have created, for the gift of life, and for giving yourself to us in Jesus Christ, whose holy life, suffering and death, and glorious resurrection have delivered us from slavery to sin and death. We thank you that in the power of your Holy Spirit you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. We are your children, and yours is the glory, now and for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Days of Elijah WS 3186

***BENEDICTION**

UMH – United Methodist Hymnal TFWS – The Faith We Sing WS - Worship and Song

Bold Font: All *Please stand in body or spirit

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**Minutes of Shenandoah River District Conference
– Sunday, November 3, 2024
Stimpson Auditorium in Halpin Harrison Hall on the Campus of
Shenandoah University and Remotely at Bridgewater United Methodist
Church – 3:00 p.m.**

The 3rd District Conference and Charge Conferences of the Shenandoah River District met Sunday, November 3, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at Stimpson Auditorium in Halpin Harrison Hall on the campus of Shenandoah University and remotely at Bridgewater United Methodist Church.

The gathering music was performed by Peter Uhlir, organist for First United Methodist Church in Winchester. In Bridgewater, the organist was Drew Davis. The District Superintendent called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. He welcomed the body to Shenandoah University and those at Bridgewater United Methodist Church. A video of Shenandoah University was shown.

The Opening Prayer was given by Rev. John Stelzl, President of PiM (Partners in Ministry) for the Shenandoah River District. The Call to Worship was led by Mr. Andy Harbick, District Co-Lay Leader of the Shenandoah River District, followed by the opening hymn, “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing.” Wilma Jennings, District Co-Lay Leader of the Shenandoah River District, led in the Centering Prayer.

The gathering watched a video celebrating the work of the Charge Conferences by some pastors on our district: Rev. Andy Brock, Rev. Yosvany Pereira, Pastor Heather Gómez, Rev. Sean Devolites, and Rev. AhnnaLise Stevens-Jennings.

Rev. Gómez noted the Offering for District Conference will benefit Old Stone Church Foundation in Leesburg. Information about this Foundation is found on Page 1 of your District Conference Booklet. This site is owned by the Virginia Conference Historical Society and is the first Methodist owned property in the United States. (A total offering of \$691 was collected from both sites.)

THE WORK OF THE CHARGE CONFERENCES

DS Gómez called the annual Charge Conferences of the Shenandoah River District to order.

1 – Election of District Conference Secretary - DS Gómez nominated Debbie Creech (Administrator for SRD) as secretary of the Charge Conference. He also asked if there were other nominations from the floor for other people to serve as secretary and hearing none, asked for a second, which was given. He asked for those in favor at both sites to verbally respond with a yes or no and the motion carried.

2 – Election of Church Lay Leaders and Ministry Leaders - Rev. Gómez asked for approval of each church’s leaders for 2025 and those persons were elected by saying yes.

3 - Lay Servants - Each church with Lay Servants were asked to respond by saying “Yes” to electing their Lay Servants to serve in the year ahead. The vote carried.

4 – Candidates for Ministry – 2 churches had persons who are exploring the call into ministry and have entered the Candidacy process and need verbal approval for renewal. Elizabeth Dalton (Woodstock United Methodist Church) and Paula Levesque (Braddock Street United Methodist Church.) Persons in attendance from Woodstock and Braddock Street Churches verbally approved their candidates for renewal. *(After the event was held, it was determined that Eric Scott Fury (Columbia Furnace United Methodist Church) needed to have verbal approval for renewal of his candidacy as well. At the direction of DS Gómez, the church will hold a SPPRC committee meeting to approve Pastor Fury for renewal and report back to the District Office.)*

5 – Approval of clergy compensation packages (compensation form, account reimbursement and housing exclusion). Dr. Gómez brought attention to the churches’ compensation package pertaining to their pastor(s). Rev. Al Irving, pastor of Agape United Methodist Church, spoke and mentioned his compensation package was incorrect by \$500. He said his compensation form says \$48,000 when it should indicate \$48,500. A vote was taken among his charge conference attendees from Agape to

accept the change and he will make the changes on the appropriate form in Unity. Rev. Gómez then asked for each church to approve their clergy package for 2025 by saying “yes.” The motion carried.

6 – Member Removal – Rev Gómez discussed membership removal with the churches, reminding them of Paragraph 228.b 2-4 which, paraphrased, asks each church to take responsibility in maintaining good church records and, after prayerful consideration, remove them from the rolls after 2 years of calling their name at the Annual Charge Conference. He then asked those churches who had a list to remove said names to vote by saying “yes.”

The Charge Conference concluded at 3:39 p.m.

The Harambee Gospel Choir from Shenandoah University performed several numbers for the body of the Charge Conference. Their robust acapella sound was a blessing!

THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

At 3:54 p.m., the 3rd District Conference of the Shenandoah River District was called to order. Rev. Gómez took a moment of privilege to thank everyone in the district for his seven years serving as District Superintendent. He considered it a blessing to share the life of the United Methodist Church with the people of the Shenandoah Valley.

1 – Election of District Conference Secretary - DS Gómez nominated Debbie Creech (Administrator for SRD) as secretary of the District Conference. He also asked if there were other nominations from the floor for other persons to serve as secretary and hearing none, asked for a second, which was given. He asked for those in favor to respond verbally with “Yes,” and the motion carried.

2 – Attendance Sheet – Pastors were reminded to turn their completed attendance forms to Debbie Creech at Stimpson Hall or Brenda Woods in Bridgewater or email them to the district office.

3 – Minutes - The Minutes from the 2023 Shenandoah River District Conference held on October 22, 2023 were presented. Dr. Gómez asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Hearing the motion seconded, the body verbally voted in favor to approve the minutes. (Pages 8 through 10 of the District Conference Booklet)

4 – Committee on Ordained Ministry - Rev. Daniel Wray, Co-Chair of the District Committee on Ordained Ministry, gave a brief report and update of the committee. (Page 19 of the District Conference Booklet)

5 – Shenandoah River District Committee Reports – Rev. Gómez mentioned the District Committee reports can be found on Page 16-25 of the District Booklet.

6 – Ratification of the 2025 SRD Budget – (Pages 26-29 of the District Booklet) Rev. Sue MacTavish (District Treasurer), the District Staff and the Administrative Board reviewed the budget with the effort to reduce District apportionments. It was presented and approved by the District Stewards on September 11, 2024.

7 – Special Presentation to Andy Harbick and Wilma Jennings – District Co-Lay Leaders – DS Gómez presented both Andy and Wilma awards for their time served as Lay Leaders and are rotating off in 2024. Andy served as Lay Leader from 2020 to 2024 while Wilma served from 2017 to 2024. Each award stated that, “In appreciation of your dedication and service to the Shenandoah River District as Co-Lay Leader. Presented at District Conference, November 3, 2024.”

8 – Election of District Leadership – The Shenandoah River District Administrative Board is recommending James Robinson (Montague Avenue) and Abby Garber (RISE) as Co-Lay Leaders for the next quadrennium beginning in 2025. Dr. Gómez asked for verbal approval of these persons and the vote carried.

The District Administrative Board also gave its list and proposed slate of District Leaders for 2025 (Page 14 of the District Booklet). Hearing no additional nominees from the body, the vote was affirmed by a verbal yes and approved.

9 – Election of 2025 Annual Conference District Members at Large – (June 12-14, 2025 in Roanoke, Virginia) (Page 31-35 of the District Booklet) SRD is allowed 49 persons to attend the 2025 Annual Conference as At-Large Members. At the time of the District Conference, 37 persons had submitted their nominations. Rev. Susan Catlett spoke and asked that her nominee, Joy Bly, be removed from the list as she will represent the 2025 AC as a local church member. Therefore, the count was reduced to 36. There were 7 nominations from the floor: Deborah French (Toms Brook), Tammy Gordon (Aisle 7), Kathy Lutman (Round Hill), Wilma Jennings (Market Street), Nancy Bassett (Saint James), Sandy Synder (Stephens City), Mary Synder (Mount Olivet). A motion was made and these nominations passed.

Youth Member at Large – A nomination from the floor was made for Claire Luzzi (Duncan Memorial). According to the District rules, Youth and Young Adult nominations are approved by the Laity members of the District Administrative Board. Therefore, this nomination will be presented to them for their approval after the District Conference. (Note: On November 8th, the Laity of the District Administrative Board approved this person.)

With this total of 43 At-Large nominations; still needing 6 more persons to serve, it was noted the Administrative Board (Laity) could approve any additional nominations. (On November 8th, the Laity of the District Administrative Board approved the submitted names of Dwight Miller (Kernstown), Doris Miller (Kernstown), Cheryl Spurr (Kernstown), Roger Hill, (Kernstown), Susan Hill (Kernstown) and Sarah Stelzl (Page) to serve as At-Large Members to AC 2025.)

SRD is allowed 49 persons to attend as District At-Large Members to AC 2025 – We have met our quota.

SRD is allowed 4 persons to attend as District Young Adult At-Large Members to AC 2025. At present, we only have 2 persons elected.

SRD is allowed 4 persons to attend as District Youth Members to AC 2025. We have met our quota.

The District Conference then concluded and the meeting then moved to a time of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

DS Gómez and newly elected District Co-Lay Leader, James Robinson, led in the Prayer of Confession and the Great Thanksgiving.

A list of the saints from the churches in the Shenandoah River District scrolled on the screen as those present remembered their loved ones that had passed during the last year.

Mr. Robinson led in the Lord's Prayer. The Bread and Cup was served. At Stimpson Auditorium, there were 3 stations offering communion by intinction. At Bridgewater UMC, there were 2 stations offering communion.

After communion, there was a prayer, the closing hymn, "The Summons" was sung and a rousing benediction was given by Rev. Delyn Celec, Shenandoah University Chaplain on the drum.

The 4 piece Shenandoah University Brass Ensemble "Jazz" paraded out of the auditorium playing "When the Saints Go Marching In," followed by Rev. Delyn Celec and Dr. Gómez (with their second line umbrellas) and the audience (with their miniature umbrellas) exiting the auditorium. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Deborah F. Creech
District Charge Conference Secretary

In Attendance at Stimpson Auditorium, Winchester – 184
In Attendance at Bridgewater United Methodist Church – 138
Total in attendance - 322

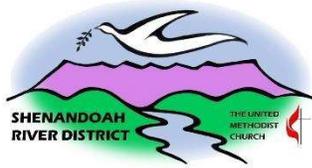
2025-26 SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT CLERGY

CHARGES

CLERGY

District Superintendent.....	Kyungsuk Cho
District Developer for Clergy Formation.....	Andy L. Brock
District Developer of Congregational Innovation.....	Thomas H. “Tommy” Stelzl
Agape.....	Alphonso L. Irving
Asbury (Harrisonburg).....	Susan M. Reaves
Bethany (Augusta).....	Blaine H. Oliver-Thomas
Bethany (Loudoun).....	Sandra Benton Plasters
Boyce-Millwood-White Post Charge.....	Kenneth K. “Ken” Patrick
Braddock Street.....	Jason B. Duley
Braddock Street Associate.....	AhnnaLise Stevens-Jennings
Bridgewater.....	Mary K. Dadisman
Brucetown.....	Susan G. Catlett
Christian Newcomer.....	Richard J. McDowell
Columbia Furnace-Union Forge Charge.....	W. Glen Early
Cool Spring.....	Edwin “Ed” Lambert
Dayton.....	Jennifer L. Day
Duncan Memorial (Berryville).....	Daniel A. Wray
Elkton.....	Debbie A. Powell
Emmanuel.....	Susan G. Catlett
Evergreen.....	Ellen A. LaCroix Fillette
First (Timberville).....	Micah D. Smartt
First (Winchester).....	Sean C. Devolites
Front Royal.....	Rachel G. Plemmons
Fulks Run Charge.....	Hillary A. Evans
Grace.....	Mary J. Lock
Greenwood-Market Street Charge.....	Jae Seong “Jack” Lee
Grottoes.....	C. Eric Strother
Harmony (Hamilton).....	Larry E. Craddock
Howellsville.....	Edwin “Ed” Lambert
John Wesley (Front Royal).....	Joseph H. Plemmons
John Wesley (Harrisonburg).....	Judith Nandikove
Keezletown.....	T. Joel Robinette
Kernstown.....	Victor R. Gómez
Leesburg.....	Seungsoo “RJ” Jun
Leesburg—Director of Congregational Ministries.....	Heather L. Wray
Linville-Edom—Mount Tabor Charge.....	Costella L. Forney
Loudoun Charge.....	Cynthia A. “Cindy” Rainger
Luray.....	Erich D. Bennett
Macedonia.....	Lawrence R. “Larry” Thompson, Jr.
Manor Memorial.....	Stephen R. Creech
Marshall.....	John F. Rowe, Jr.
Marvin Chapel.....	Kenneth K. “Ken” Patrick
McGaheysville.....	Deborah D. “Deb” Washer
Middleburg-Rectortown Cooperative Parish.....	Eduardo A. Carrillo

Montague Avenue – John Mann.....	Thomas H. “Tommy” Stelzl
Mount Clinton.....	Patricia M. Meadows
Mount Crawford Charge.....	Tommy Lewis-Crosby
Mount Hermon.....	Linda H. Monroe
Mount Horeb.....	Steven E. McMillion
Mount Jackson Charge.....	TBA
Mount Olive-Relief Charge.....	Kathleen W. Haynes
Mount Olive-Shiloh Charge.....	David L. Nesselrodt
Mount Pleasant—Pine Grove Charge.....	Penny L. Wilson, Jr.
Mount Zion (Mount Solon).....	A. Al Tuten
Mount Zion (Rockingham).....	Lori A. Valentine
Mount Zion—Willisville Chapel Cooperative Parish.....	James E. Page, Jr.
Mountain Valley.....	Laurice F. Jones-Wilks
New Hope.....	Ashley N. Oliver-Thomas
Otterbein.....	Adam L. Blagg
Page.....	John T. Stelzl
Paris Mountain Charge.....	Karen Adams
Pleasant View Charge.....	Michael W. Pettry
Rehobeth.....	James D. Nenninger
Reliance-Ridings Chapel Charge.....	Andy L. Brock
RISE.....	Alexis W. Owens
Round Hill (Loudoun).....	Robert Norman “Bob” Riggles
Saint James (Pleasant Valley).....	Lori A. Valentine
Saint Paul.....	Sue H. MacTavish
Sangerville.....	Gary M. Monroe
Shenandoah Charge.....	Joseph H. “Joe” Amend, III
Shenandoah Valley Charge.....	Patti P. Brown
Short Hill.....	Hyunsik “Sean” Kang
Singers Glen Charge.....	Debra R. Lucas
Stanley.....	Elizabeth P. Dalton
Stephens City.....	Bertina J. H. Westley
Strasburg.....	John B. Haynes, Jr.
Sunset Drive (Broadway).....	Yosvany Proenza Pereira
Toms Brook.....	Linda D. H. Breeden
Verona.....	Sean D. Gundry
Associate: Aisle 7.....	Shawna N. Hiner
Vision of Hope.....	Michael B. Reaves
Warren Charge.....	Taeshin Kim
Welltown-Rest Cooperative Parish.....	Bradley John “Ralph” Carver
West Loudoun Charge.....	Bruce N. Lugh
Weyers Cave.....	Amy E. Pannell
Woodstock.....	W. Todd Gess



2026 SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

The responsibilities of the Administrative Board covers the areas of:

- Superintendency
- Finance
- Trustees
- Nominations

Members for 2026 are:

District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho
Rev. Stephen Creech (Clergy) Co-Chair Mr. Bobby Ford (Lay)
Rev. Sue MacTavish (Clergy)
Mr. James Robinson (Lay) Co-Chair Dr. Susan Schall (Lay)

DISCIPLESHIP BOARD

The responsibilities of the Discipleship Board will cover the areas of:

- Outreach (Mission, Evangelism, Diversity)
- Formation (Age Level Ministries, Library, Stewardship)
- Emerging Ministries
- Lay Servant

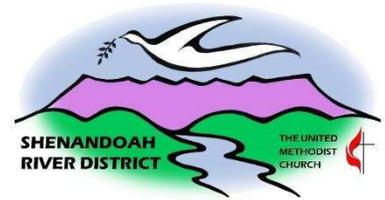
Members for 2026 are:

District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho
Rev. Dr. Susan Catlett (Clergy) Rev. Shawna Hiner (Clergy)
Miss Raini Newman (Lay) Rev. Alexis Owens (Clergy)
Rev. Yosvany Pereira (Clergy) Mrs. Barbara Phillips (Lay)
Rev. Tommy Stelzl (Clergy)

SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT LAY SERVANT COMMITTEE

Mrs. Raini Newman – Chair (Lay)
Mr. William Braddy (Lay)
Mrs. Susan Schall (Lay)
Rev. Deb Washer (Clergy)

2026
SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT BOARD
OF CHURCH
LOCATION AND BUILDING



Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho, Chairperson
Mrs. Clarissa Byrd (Lay) Rev. Linda Hudgins Breeden (Clergy)
Rev. Chad Hrbek (Clergy) Rev. Al Irving (Clergy)
Mrs. Mary Madden (Lay) Rev. Sue MacTavish (Clergy)
Rev. John Stelzl (Clergy) Mrs. Sarah Stelzl (Lay)
Mrs. Lisa Tri (Lay)

**Board of Church Location and Building members are elected at Annual Conference (this listing is for informational purposes)*

SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON
THE ORDAINED MINISTRY

Chair: Rev. Daniel Wray

Secretary: Rev. Joel Robinette

Board of Ministry Representatives: Rev. Heather Wray, Rev. Adam Blagg

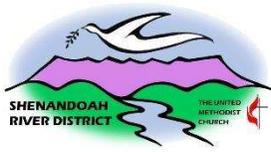
Mentor Coordinators: Rev. Dr. Sandi Benton Plasters, Rev. Al Tuten

Registrar: Rev. Debbie Powell

Mr. William Braddy (Lay)
Rev. Eduardo Carrillo
Rev. Mary Dadisman
Rev. Amy Pannell
Mrs. Barbara Phillips (Lay)
Rev. Michael Reaves
Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho

**Board of Ordained Ministry members are elected at Annual Conference (this listing is for informational purposes)*

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS



James Robinson – District Lay Leader Shenandoah River District

Hello Shenandoah River District,

My first year as Co-Lay Leader of the District has been filled with inspirational moments that I would like to share with you. I have prayed to God for discernment to guide me through my calling and empower me with the necessary spiritual gifts to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

“The United Methodist church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.” This is the new Vision Statement that came into inception in May.

In April we had a celebration party for the outgoing D.S Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez. His commitment and dedication to the district is spiritually appreciated and will be missed. I wish him much success in his new appointment.

During Annual Conference in June, we witnessed the ordination of Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho and welcomed him as our new District Superintendent

In September an installation service was held for Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho to make his appointment official. During this installation service, he introduced three concepts of faith: **Connect, Listen, and Focus.**

Prayers for discernment for Abby Garber, my fellow Co-Lay Leader. She resigned her position due to personal reasons, and not being able to devote adequate time to her calling. I wish her much success in all her future endeavors. Her presence and spirit will be missed. Also, ongoing prayers for the state of the country and for peace around the world.

In December the local district office will be closing and moving to a more mobile model. This change will allow the district staff to provide better one on one interactions among local churches. The new model will be implemented by January, 2026.

Blessings,

James Robinson
Lay Leader
Shenandoah River District
Lay Leader - Montague Ave-UMC

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS



Wendell Cochran – District Lay Servant Committee Shenandoah River District

The Shenandoah River District Lay Servant Ministries Committee had another successful year, we believe, with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We held two Lay Servant Academies, the first on March 15 at McGaheysville UMC, where twenty people from around the district participated in four classes: Basic Course, Spiritual Gifts, Preaching, and Storytelling. The McGaheysville congregation provided breakfast and lunch.

The second Lay Servant Academy was held September 13 at Macedonia United Methodist Church. We began the day with a worship service led by newly appointed District Superintendent Kyungsuk Cho. He challenged the lay servants to train themselves to be a “dream team” for Jesus. The service included communion and an opportunity to renew our baptismal vows.

Thirty-five people took classes that day, making it one of the largest Lay Servant Academies in the District in recent years. Classes included Basic Course, United Methodist Heritage, Leading Worship, and Leading Bible Study. Macedonia’s congregation also provided breakfast.

The committee was especially glad to have fifteen people take the Basic Course, including one as young as 13 years old. We welcome them as they begin their journey towards greater service to their churches and communities.

We also are grateful to the people who taught our classes:

McGaheysville:

Basic Course – Linda Conrad, Otterbein UMC.

Preaching -- Rev. Stephen Creech, Manor Memorial UMC.

Spiritual Gifts – Rev. Joseph Plemmons, John Wesley, Front Royal.

Storytelling – Wendell Cochran, Keezletown UMC.

Macedonia:

Basic Course – Rev. Stephen Creech

Leading Worship – Rev. Susan Catlett, Emmanuel UMC

United Methodist Heritage – Rev. Larry Davies, retired.

Leading Bible Studies – Rev. Joel Robinette, Keezletown UMC.

I, along with Rev. Gary Heaton, are leaving the committee at the end of the year. We have been grateful for the opportunity to serve, especially alongside such a strong group of people who are truly committed to lay servanthood: Dr. Susan Schall, Mr. Bill Braddy, Rev. Deb Washer, and Miss Raini Newman.

May God bless the future committee and its work.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS



Daniel Wray – Chairperson District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM) Shenandoah River District

The Shenandoah River District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM) has had a productive year, focusing on supporting, evaluating, and guiding candidates in various stages of their ministerial journey. This report provides an overview of our committee's activities and outcomes for the past year.

In consultation with District Superintendent Cho, The Shenandoah River dCOM has reorganized its structure in 2025. In order to help create clarity and unity within the district, we have replaced the model of a Northern and Southern team with two co-chairs, and in its place have changed to one chair (Daniel Wray) and two Team Leaders (Michael Reeves and Eduardo Carillo). These two team leaders will lead members of the DCOM committee in interviews, however all correspondence for DCOM matters should be addressed to the chair. We believe this will help streamline communication for the DCOM, as well as allow all members of the DCOM to get to better know candidates and licensed local pastors from across our district.

Getting to know candidates and local pastors and to hear their call is one of the greatest joys of the dCOM. We are tasked with admitting those interested in becoming clergy in the UMC into the candidacy process. We journey with these candidates through the candidacy process until they are able to become certified candidates. From there the dCOM conducts annual reviews of certified candidates, and interviews those wishing to become licensed local pastors, elders, deacons, or Associate Members.

The dCOM is also responsible for the relicensing all of the local pastors on our district annually. We currently have 28 licensed local pastors serving the Shenandoah River district and we are proud of the holy ministry they are doing both within the church as well as in roles such as camp directors or hospital chaplains. Laity in our churches can take great comfort in the fact that those who serve their churches have oversight and are held to high standards of education, theology, emotional intelligence, and competency in ministry. The dCOM also helps to provide mentoring and resources to candidates and licensed local pastors to help them grow and develop in their ministry.

The dCOM also desires to help encourage laity who are interested in a call to ministry. The Virginia Annual Conference hosts two events called candidacy summits each year that can help to discover how God might be calling you into ministry. Some find an affirmation in their role of laity, while others discovered a spark for licensed or ordained ministry. We highly encourage those interested in furthering their ministry to attend one of these events.

We also remind clergy that they have an important duty of fostering a sense of calling within their local churches or other ministry settings. If you sense someone who you believe is called to further ministry, please read and review either “The Christian as Minister” or “Blessed Wrestling” with them. If they would like to become a candidate please submit a form to the DCOM that you have reviewed the book with them.

It is a sacred duty to foster a sense of calling within our district and we are grateful for all of the ways in which you participate in building of the current and future clergy of our district.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS



Chad Hrbek, Director Overlook Retreat and Camp Ministries Shenandoah River District

It has been another busy and fruitful year at Overlook Retreat and Camp Ministries! We have welcomed more than 3,200 guests—some for a day visit, others for overnight retreats, and many for full-week stays.

Our dedicated year-round and seasonal staff work tirelessly to keep everything running smoothly—ensuring that facilities are clean, equipment is working, and meals are ready to be enjoyed. We currently have six regular year-round staff members, five who serve as needed, and an additional 15 summer staff (with several of our year-round team helping during the summer as well).

This summer brought an exciting increase in campers, especially in our Day Camp program. Our theme centered on the Holy Spirit, focusing on stories from the Book of Acts and the formation of the early church.

The week began with a celebration of Pentecost during worship and a “Birthday of the Church” party. Campers experienced what life might have been like for early Christians—evading Roman soldiers during secret worship gatherings and even “converting” some Romans along the way!

We closed the week with a meditative walk around camp, inviting campers to welcome the Holy Spirit into their hearts and ending with a quiet reflection in the Chapel. Looking ahead, next summer’s theme will follow the Missionary Journeys of Paul, as we explore how the early church spread beyond Jerusalem.

We continue to enhance our spaces to better serve guests and ministries:

- Dining Hall: A new patio provides easier and more accessible entry to the porch and dining area.
- Blessings Lodge: After nearly 30 years, it’s getting a well-deserved facelift! Updates include new flooring in the main meeting spaces, fresh bedding, new lamps, and wall décor in all bedrooms. Upcoming improvements include a new roof, and upgrades to the kitchen’s convection oven, dishwasher, and HVAC system.
- Ritchie Retreat: Installed a new HVAC system.
- Swank Memorial Retreat: Plans are underway to replace the flooring.

Overlook continues to be a place to “Meet God on the Mountain.” We offer summer camps (celebrating 60 years in 2026!) and retreat facilities for groups ranging from one person to 125 people. Whether you prefer rustic accommodations with no electricity and an outdoor spigot or the comfort of hotel-style rooms in Blessings Lodge, we have a space for you.

Whatever your need—spiritual renewal, ministry development, or quiet rest—Overlook is here to serve. We look forward to helping you and your group connect more deeply with God in the year ahead.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS



Mission Central Board Report 2025 Barbara Phillips, Board Chairman Shenandoah River District

The ministries of Mission Central continue to thrive as we faithfully serve our communities in a variety of meaningful ways. Under the guidance of dedicated leaders and volunteers, we are meeting real needs and living out our call to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Through the coordination of Director, Artie Fredrick, the Children's Clothes Closet provides clothing and baby items to families in need. Equipment for Caring, coordinated by Delores Reid, offers invaluable assistance to individuals requiring medical equipment and supplies. Both ministries are well-organized, supported by reliable volunteers, and inspired by God's vision — a vision first sparked by the faith of two women and now made real through His provision.

Though challenges arise, we remain steadfast in prayer and committed to following God's leading as we continue to grow and serve.

A Reflection from Delores Reid – Equipment for Caring

Equipment for Caring continues to be a vital resource in our community, serving an average of 80+ individuals each month who need durable medical equipment or disposable supplies. Many of these items are not fully covered by insurance, and this ministry helps to bridge that gap.

Since beginning in 2015, the ministry has grown tremendously and now operates from Mt. Tabor UMC, which graciously provides four rooms and two storage sheds. In the first seven months of 2025 alone, we have loaned out:

- 11 hospital beds
- 32 bedside commodes
- 74 shower benches
- 10 knee scooters
- 66 wheelchairs
- 25 transport chairs
- 44 rollators
- 96 walkers
- and countless smaller items and disposable supplies

Thousands of disposable items — including adult diapers, bed pads, dressing materials, and skin care products — have also been distributed.

We are deeply grateful for our faithful volunteers, who collectively give 60–80 hours each month, and for the generous donations from the local community, Shenandoah River District, Virginia Conference, United Women of Faith, and local churches.

God's plan for this ministry continues to unfold in ways greater than we could have imagined. We trust in His guidance and pray for your continued support as we serve together.

A Reflection from Artie Fredrick – Children's Clothes Closet

Our ministry began in 1994, offering free children's clothing and baby items to families in need. After moving from McGaheysville UMC, we became a District Mission in 2019, and have since grown substantially at our current location: 1704 Smithland Road, Harrisonburg, VA.

We now have over 1,600 registered families who rely on our services. Through dedicated work, kind words, and compassionate action, we seek to honor God and demonstrate His love to all who come through our doors.

We are so thankful for the continued support of our churches, the Shenandoah River District, the Virginia Conference, the United Women of Faith, and our local communities. Your prayers and contributions allow this ministry to flourish and touch countless lives.

Both Equipment for Caring and the Children's Clothes Closet are essential parts of our Mission Central outreach. As we look toward the future, we recognize the challenges ahead — but we face them with faith, gratitude, and hope.

We remain dedicated to fulfilling God's call to serve, trusting that through your ongoing prayers and support, Mission Central will continue to be a beacon of Christ's love in our community.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS



Mary Preston - President Shenandoah River District United Women in Faith

Our reports the past two years have referred to a “disconnect” for UWF between the two halves of the district. While that disconnect has disappeared somewhat, it has not gone away completely; and it may never go away. Most people just don't want to travel very far to a district event, even if it's held at a centrally located part of the district. Those who are willing to do so are mostly district officers. Some in-person events will continue to be designated as either “North” or “South” in order to garner maximum participation.

District functions during the year include the following:

- *Four Executive Committee meetings, one per quarter, held via Zoom
- *District Prayer Breakfast (North) in March, held in person
- *Racial Justice Retreat in April, held both in person and virtually
- *All zones (South) meeting in May, held in person
- *Informal just-for-fun gathering in August, held in person at a centrally located park
- *District Prayer Breakfast (South) in September, held in person
- *District Annual Meeting in October, held via Zoom
- *A racial justice event in October called Reaching Across the Racial Divide, held at a local college both in person and virtually -- a massive undertaking involving a year and a half of planning and the collaborative efforts of the district UWF and many other organizations
- *District Spiritual Life Retreat in October, held in person
- *All zones (North) meeting, in November, to be held in person
- *UWF Christmas meal in December, to be held in person at Camp Overlook

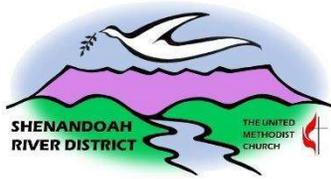
Other things of note:

*Our numbers continue to decline. Since this time a year ago, five units have become inactive; and a sixth one will declare inactive status at the end of this year. The reasons are always the same – aging membership in an aging congregation. By year's end, the number of units will be down to 33.

*There are bright spots, however. One unit that had been a sort of “limbo” for several years has recently become active again. One unit that had been inactive for several years reactivated by joining with another unit.

*Our units vary in size and activity. We have a lot of strong units and not all of them are large. Many are small yet mighty in what they accomplish. Some are struggling to survive yet continue to do what they can for missions.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS



Rev. Sue MacTavish Shenandoah River District Treasurer

As your Treasurer this past year I have continued to work with the Virginia Annual Conference Treasurer's office to insure correct and complete financial records of the District. And I am happy to report that the District is solvent and is financially positioned to remain solvent well into the future.

A few items to note this year:

- District Apportionment collections were 88.8% in 2024, slightly down from 90% in 2023 and are at currently at 61.3% for 2025.
- The District General Fund in 2024 ended with a deficit of \$11,283, and we currently have a positive balance of \$22,781 because we took the proactive step of pulling almost \$50 thousand from our reserves at the start of the year.
- Investment earnings in 2024 had a positive return to reserves in the amount of \$30,000. and we are expecting similar or greater returns in 2025.
- Overall our unrestricted reserves, increased \$56,379 in 2024 to total, \$889,639, and so far in 2025 they have increased \$17,647 to total \$907,286.
- As of September 30th our total Net Assets (assets without restrictions, those with board designations, and those with restrictions) of \$2,930,437.

The Administrative Board has received and reviewed detailed monthly financial reports from the Conference Treasurer's office, making adjustments throughout the year to improve our overall financial picture. This ongoing review and planned use of reserves has allowed us to project for 2026, a slightly lower overall District budget of \$318, 008 keeping the District Apportionments as low as possible.

It has been my pleasure to serve this year as your Treasurer, Rev. Sue MacTavish.

SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT BUDGET - 2026

Shenandoah River District -- 2026 Budget

1

	A	B	G	H
1		2025 actual as of 09/30/2025	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
2	Revenues			
3	Apportionment income	128,400.25	206,060.00	232,000.00
4	Pre-paid Apportionment		29,525.00	
5	Funding Transfer from other funds	75,000.00		
6	Funding from District parsonage	24,000.00	30,000.00	36,000.00
7	Cedar Grove Rent (closed 7/1/23)		6,240.00	-
8	St. Mark Rent (closed 7/1/23)		6,000.00	-
9	Funding from unrestrictive reserves		45,475.00	50,000.00
10	Grants and donations- unrestricted	12,500.00		
11	Misc. Unrestricted income	593.00		
12				
13				
14	Total Revenues	240,493.25	323,300.00	318,000.00
15				
16	Ministry Expenses:			
17	Grants-general	-580		
18	Mission support to Churches		10,000.00	10,000.00
19	Just Neighbors		1,250.00	1,250.00
20	Criminal Justice Grant		500.00	500.00
21	Grants - benevolence	9,329.98		
22	Mission Central		10,000.00	10,000.00
23	Grants - camping ministries	30,000.00		
24	Camp Overlook		30,000.00	30,000.00
25	Grants - campus ministries	3,300.00		
26	Chaplaincy (Shenandoh and RMA)		6,600.00	6,600.00
27	Grants - New Faith Community	0		
28	Church revitalizing and development		3,000.00	10,000.00
29	Emerging ministries		3,000.00	
30	Grants - Church Revitalization	230.87		-
31	Congregational Vitality		5,000.00	
32	Scholarships	500		
33	scholarships		2,500.00	-
34	Leadership, training and coaching	1,144.97		
35	Clergy Leadership		2,000.00	
36	Support for clergy continuing ed		1,000.00	
37	District Conference/Annual Conf.		1,000.00	3,000.00
38	Board of Ordained Ministry	267.55		
39	DCOM		1,500.00	1,500.00
40	Discretionary expenditures	1,935.00		5,000.00
41	District Lay Leader		1,000.00	
42	DS Discretionary		3,000.00	
43	Personnel costs (salaries & retirement)	23,831.18		

SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT BUDGET - 2026

Shenandoah River District -- 2026 Budget

2

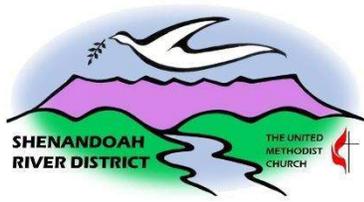
	A	B	G	H
1		2025 actual as of 09/30/2025	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
44	Director of Connectional Ministries		22,000.00	27,660.00
45	Director of Connectional Ministries		22,000.00	22,600.00
46	Clergy Pension		4,500.00	2,490.00
47	Payroll taxes	-		1,500.00
48	Health Insurance	-	5,400.00	5,000.00
49	Accountable reimbursement	-		
50	Training and continuing education	-		
51	DCCes Continuing ed and travel		3,000.00	3,000.00
52	Miscellaneous ministry expense	0	100.00	100.00
53	Total Ministry Expenses	69,959.55	138,350.00	140,200.00
54				
55	Administrative Expenses:			
56	Personnel costs	23,849.84		
57	Administrative Assistant		40,000.00	41,200.00
58	Custodian		3,500.00	
59	Lay Pension (9%)		3,600.00	3,708.00
60	Disability and life insurance		3,300.00	3,300.00
61	Payroll tax		3,600.00	3,600.00
62	Workers' compensation insurance	47.00	2,000.00	1,000.00
63	Housing allowance	15,000.00		
64	Housing allowance		30,000.00	36,000.00
65	Training and continuing education	-		
66	Continuing education - lay staff		600.00	2,000.00
67	Temporary Contracted Services	285.00		
68	Part-time office help		2,000.00	2,000.00
69	Travel (DS)	2,336.88	4,100.00	4,000.00
70	Annual Conference Member expense rei	21,250.00		
71	Annual Lay members		27,500.00	20,000.00
72	Office Expenses	853.01		
73	Office supplies		3,000.00	3,000.00
74	Postage		1,000.00	-
75	Printing/coping		1,500.00	1,500.00
76	Janitorial services and supplies	634.44		2,000.00
77	Equipment rental	2,825.28		
78	5,500.00 Xerox Lease		5,500.00	5,500.00
79	2,000.00 Pitney Bowes lease		2,000.00	250.00
80	Equipment maintenance & contracts	418.43		
81	Office equipment		1,800.00	3,500.00
82	Marketing and communications	833.82		
83	Communications		1,000.00	1,000.00
84	Audio Visual Materials/Library		500.00	500.00
85	District website expenses		1,000.00	1,000.00

SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT BUDGET - 2026

Shenandoah River District -- 2026 Budget

3

	A	B	G	H
1		2025 actual as of 09/30/2025	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
86	Telephone and internet	2,353.72		
87	Office phone and internet		4,000.00	4,000.00
88	Insurance - general	1,650.85		
89	Office insurance		700.00	2,000.00
90	Misc office expenses	-		
91	Contingencies		250.00	250.00
92	Legal Expenses	-	500.00	
93	Accounting services	3,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
94	Rent	9,000.00		
95	Office rent		18,000.00	18,000.00
96	Utilities	2,162.69		
97	Office Utilities	500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
98	Rental Property expenses	0		
99	Cedar Grove		6,000.00	-
100	St. Mark		-	
101	DS Moving (move to DS Moving Fund)		500.00	500.00
102	Funding for other designated expenses	2,250.06		
103	District Youth Ministry Funds Moved to Youth Sub account		2,500.00	2,500.00
104	Lay Servant Training Funds Moved to Lay Servant sub Accou		2,000.00	2,000.00
105	Misc Building Expenses		6,000.00	-
106	Misc.			2500
107	Total Administrative Expenses	89,251.02	188,950.00	177,808.00
108				
109	Total Expenses	159,210.57	327,300.00	318,008.00
110				
111	Revenues in Excess (Deficit) of Exper	81,282.68	(4,000.00)	(8.00)
112				
113	2026 Askings for Camp Overlook		30,000.00	30,000.00
114				
115				
116				
117				
118				
119				
120				
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122				
123				
124				
125				



**Elections of District Members at-Large
To represent our District at the 2026
Virginia Annual Conference
June 17-20, 2026
Harrisonburg, Virginia**

Shenandoah River District: Membership: 24,099
Members At Large 2026* = 45

THESE PERSONS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE 45 PERSON COUNT:

1 District Lay Leader	(James Robinson)
2 District Assistant Lay Leaders	(Susan Schall, Deborah French)
1 President of United Women in Faith	(Mary Preston)
1 District Director of Lay Servant	(Raini Newman)

**[Calculation received from Conference Connectional Ministries Office (Text correspondence 09-08-25) Note: By Conference Rules: The District Lay Leader, District UMF Women President, District UMMen President, District Youth Members At Large & District Young Adult/College Members At Large are NOT included in the 45 representatives.]*

[The District Director of Lay Servants are District Members-at-Large by vote of previous District Conferences.]

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

45 AT-LARGE Members Represent the SHENANDOAH RIVER District

[Only lay members of District Conference may vote for the District Lay Members At-Large of Annual Conference]

Betty Armentrout - Bennett's Chapel UMC (Warren Charge)

Betty has served my local church as worship chair, worship leader, and praise team director. She currently assists in the worship program (playing guitar and singing). She has facilitated the Adult Sunday School Class for many years. Betty currently serves as a member of the Staff/Parish Committee. She has been a certified Lay Servant for many years. She has served as church treasurer in the past and has gone on numerous mission trips. Betty currently helps with numerous outreach programs in her local church and has teamed for MANY Emmaus weekends. She has been elected as a District at large Delegate to Virginia Annual Conference numerous times, and would count it a privilege to serve the body of Christ in this capacity again. Thank you for your prayerful consideration, and God Bless.

Nancy Bassett - Saint James

Nancy has been a member of St James UMC since a child. She splits her time between Elkton UMC, Saint Paul's UMC and New Hope UMC as a pianist. She has been on the Camp Overlook Board of Directors since 2006. She is also on the VEA Board of Directors for our area.

Chris Becek - Evergreen UMC

Chris has been an Annual Conference member for three of the past four years. He is a Certified Lay Servant, serves on the Great Beginnings Preschool board, and is president of The Old Stone Church Foundation.

Bill Braddy - Mount Hermon UMC

Bill serves as the lay leader of Mount Hermon UMC and also as a lay speaker. He was appointed to the DCOM in 2024 and enjoys the learning and the mentoring they offer to rising pastors. He is also active in Lay Servant Academy for our district.

Robert S. Brock - Braddock Street UMC

Mr. Brock has been an active member and leader of the UMC for over 35 years having held most local church positions. At Braddock Street UMC he is Chair of the Care Team, Chair of Church Council (2021-2023), Vice Chair for 2020, and Sunday School small group leader. He is a Trustee of the Virginia Conference Historical Society; Board member of The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation; served as a Trustee in the former Winchester District and a member of the Board of Missions; Robert was a member of the Winchester District Haiti Steering Committee and a missionary to Haiti in 2014-2019. He is a retired Navy Veteran and federal retiree. He is an attorney. Robert has served as District Member to the Annual Conference for many years. He is qualified to address upcoming issues and programs and he looks forward to advancing Christ's work at the 2026 Annual Conference.

Patti Brown - Mount Zion Woodstock and Mount Zion Strasburg UMC's

Currently Patti is serving as a lay supply Pastor in Woodstock and Strasburg. She loves serving and giving all glory to God. Patti enjoys working in the community.

Scott Burhoe - Round Hill UMC

Scott is a Retired Coast Guard Rear Admiral, and past President of Fork Union Military Academy. Past Church Council Chair and current Finance Chair and a Lay Leader. Certified as a Lay Servant and following the path toward Lay Speaker certification.

Beth Carver - Evergreen UMC (Attends Welltown/Rest Charge)

Beth is the spouse of a UMC Pastor. They have two adult children. Currently employed by the Federal Government. Has attended Annual Conference multiple times as a guest and once as an at large delegate.

Wendell Cochran - Keezletown UMC

Wendell has served as a District Delegate several times. For the past three years he has been co-chair of the District Lay Servant Ministries Committee.

Debbie Creech - Christ UMC

Debbie has been a member of the United Methodist Church since birth. She has served as the District Administrator for the Shenandoah River District, part-time and full time for 19 years. She has served on most committees in the local church and has attended (as a non-voting member) Annual Conference for 26 years. She would be honored to continue her service to the Shenandoah River District in the capacity of At-Large Member to Annual Conference

Carl Richard (Richie) Crim, II - Welltown UMC

Richie has served in several positions at Welltown throughout the year; Choir member, Sunday School Teacher, PPR Leader, and now Lay leader.

Rebekah Daugherty - Evergreen UMC

Rebekah was a member at Leesburg UMC for 15 years but has recently initiated a membership transfer to Evergreen Church. In her time at LUMC she was a vocalist in the praise band, served on various committees, volunteered annually to lead at VBS, and actively participated in discipleship and ministry opportunities. She also invited and facilitated the Reconciling Ministry Group at LUMC. In 2019 she served as a lay delegate for LUMC at the VA Annual Conference and in 2022, 2023, and 2025 she served as a District At-Large delegate.

Tom DeVore - Asbury (Harrisonburg)

Tom is a former president of the Harrisonburg District UMM; served on several committees on the Harrisonburg District including the Wesley Foundation (now RISE) Board as Chair, Camp Overlook Board. He currently serves as Sunday School Superintendent and is on the church council. He has represented the former Harrisonburg District at Annual Conference multiple times.

Carole Feiring - Bennett's Chapel UMC (Warren Charge)

Carole is a 25 year member of Bennett's Chapel. She has served her charge for several years at Annual Conference. She is always interested in how "church" works. It would be a privilege for her to serve her charge once again.

Pamela L. Foster - Bennett's Chapel UMC (Warren Charge)

Pamela is a teacher. She has been a delegate for several years now. Pam is a Lay Speaker, and she does the Children's Moment during Sunday services. She serves as a speaker when needed. She helps during Church events. She has attended Walk to Emmaus (86).

Delores Gordon - Braddock Street UMC

Delores is a lifelong United Methodist who is faithful in her attendance in worship and small groups as well as having served on Trustees, SPRC and other committees. She has followed the upheaval in the UMC and is knowledgeable on the history and continuing challenges for congregations. She is reasonably tech savvy.

Gerald Gordon - Braddock Street UMC

Gerald is keenly interested in participating in the future of the United Methodist Church. He has been a church member for three decades, serving in a variety of leadership and committee roles. His daughter is an ordained elder in the Virginia Conference and so her future with the UMC, in whatever form the church takes, is of vital interest to him.

Sharon Harold - Bridgewater UMC

Sharon was born into the EUB church and raised as a United Methodist. Over the years she has served in many ways, teaching Sunday School, working with the children's department & youth. She has served on committees, led events and served on mission teams and volunteered at Mission Central. Sharon served as District President for the UMW/UWF and other UWF offices for 13+ years and is currently serving on COSROW. She served on the VA Conference UWF during 2024. She traveled to Mozambique with the VA Conference UMW and Cuba on Mission Trips. Mrs. Harold has served as delegate to the Virginia Annual Conference as District UMW President, Member at Large and a church delegate and it would be honored to serve in 2026.

Carol Hensley - Elkton UMC

Carol was raised and baptized in the Mennonite faith in northern Minnesota. She met her husband when she moved to Virginia to go to college and joined the Methodist church in Elkton, Virginia. She enjoys attending the conference each summer.

Margie Hernandez - Braddock Street UMC

Following in her mother's footsteps Margie follows the example of Christ as best she can. She is engaged in the ministry of the church that empowers our immigrant population, seeking justice for everyone. Being in ministry is how she can best share the love of God and feel the love of God.

Susan Hrbek - Front Royal UMC

Susan serves on many committees at church, has been an at-large member for 5 years or more.

Susan Jennings - Providence Chapel (Paris Mountain Charge)

Susan is a Certified Lay Speaker, working on CLM, Worship Leader, Treasurer, Bible study leader, follower of Jesus Christ, filled with grace and willing to serve where and as the Holy Spirit leads.

Ann Knicely - Asbury UMC

Ann is a lifetime member of Asbury UMC; a member of the church council, and is active in Sunday School. She would gladly serve as an At-Large member for the Shenandoah River District in 2026.

Gene Knicely - Asbury UMC (Harrisonburg)

Gene is a long time member of Asbury UMC. He is a former member of Church Council, active in Sunday School. He would be glad to represent the Shenandoah River District in 2026.

Bill Lalla - New Hope UMC

Bill is the current president of New Hope UMM; member board of trustees, former: admin council chair; Harrisonburg District disaster response coordinator.

Edwin Lambert - Cool Spring and Howellsville UMC's

Ed is currently serving as lay pastor of Cool Spring/Howellsville Churches

Paula Levesque - Braddock Street UMC

Paula is a discerning Candidate for ministry, Wesley MDiv student, soon to be graduate! Active member at Braddock Street UMC.

Gordon Meriwether - Manor Memorial UMC

Gordon is a recently Retired Licensed Pastor in the Shenandoah Valley District.

Diana Miller - Fields UMC

Diana has been a United Methodist her whole life. She has served as Sunday School Superintendent, Director of Children's Ministry, sung in the choir, Treasurer and Secretary of the UMF. Served as Delegate to Annual Conference on local and district levels. Relaunched Sunday School and the UMF in her church.

Chris Orndorff - Montague Avenue UMC

Chris is an excellent servant of Christ whose perspective is much-needed at the decision making table.

Delores Reid - Mountain Valley UMC

Delores is a retired RN and has been a member of Mountain Valley UMC for over 50 years. She has been an adult and children's Sunday School teacher and on church committees including SPPRC, Health and Welfare and has been a Parish Nurse getting certification from Shenandoah University. She attended Emmaus spiritual growth and continues to support those activities as well as participate in a 4th day group She has been active with the United Women in Faith and was a past president of the group and is now involved with Shenandoah River District United Women in Faith. She is presently a district UWF zone leader and has served as a Social Action Coordinator and Nominations Chair. For the past 11 years she is the coordinator for Equipment for Caring, which is a medical equipment and supply loaner closet serving the community.

Cheryl Rieman - Bridgewater UMC

Cheryl has been a member of BUMC since 2010, worship committee 2024-present, currently serving Mission Central Clothes Closet 2022-present, Lay Servant 2012-2018, member of Bridgewater Interfaith Peace Day Committee 2012-2020. She lives in Bridgewater with husband Bob.

Charles Rothgeb - Mount Clinton UMC

Charles does the church sound, video, and web tech. Also a member of the nominations committee. Attending and a member of Mount Clinton since the 1980s.

Barbara Sealock - Bennetts Chapel UMC

Barbara has been Lay Leader at Bennetts Chapel for several years. Serves on the finance committee, nomination committee. Involved in our outreach programs. Food bank and Bac Pack Buddies which distributes food to their local schools for children to take home over the week-end.

Jane Smith - Stephens City UMC

Jane is active in the church and current SPPRC chair, member of Admin and Finance committee.

David Simpson - Round Hill UMC

Attending Round Hill United Methodist Church since 1978, Dave has served across every leadership team and participated in many UMC mission trips. Retiring after 35+ years in Law Enforcement (15 as Chief of Police), he then served as Mayor of Hamilton. Wisdom, compassion, and a generous spirit make him an excellent candidate.

JoEllen Smith - First (Winchester) UMC

JoEllen is a graduate of Wright State U., Dayton, OH. She retired from the Federal Government as a Management Analyst in upper level management. Retirement affords her the opportunity for church leadership involvement. In Alexandria, she chaired the Christian Ed Committee and Church Council plus was a SPRC member three years each at Cameron UMC. Moving to Winchester in 2014 I've chaired SPRC three years, Church Council five years, and SAS Chair two years. She was First UMC's Lay Delegate to AC in 2018 and District Lay Delegate in 2020 and 2024. She chairs the EUB Archives at Shenandoah U., serve as Trustee on our Conf Historical Society, member of the Conf Archives Committee, and Trustee on the Center for EUB Heritage, United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH

Galen Snider - Stephens City UMC

Gale is a lifelong Methodist. Has previously been a church representative to conference. Married to Sandi Snider who has also been nominated as member at large.

Sandi Snider - Stephens City UMC

Sandi is a life long member of UMC. Attended conference as a member at large last year. Married to Galen Snider who is also a nominee.

Cheryl Spurr - Kernstown UMC

Cheryl is very active in her local church. She serves on numerous boards and committees. She has been an at large delegate to the annual conference for the last two years and desires to return to serve the district in this capacity. She is also the treasurer of the UWF at Kernstown United Methodist Church.

Steven Spurr - Kernstown UMC

Steve is active in his church serving on numerous committees. He has previously been an at large delegate to the annual conference and seeks to return to serve the church in the same capacity for 2026.

Butch Washer - McGaheysville UMC

Butch has held the following positions in his Local Church: Trustee, Disaster Coordinator, Member of UMM

Staunton/ Valley Ridge District: District Member-at-Large to Annual Conference, District Steward, District Trustee, Shenandoah River District: District Member at Large.

Michelle Whittemore - Bethany (Loudoun) UMC

Michelle loves to bike ride, hike, walk, read books, spend time with friends and relax. She's told she's easy to talk to and confide in and teach children's SS and plan fellowship activities. She enjoys Conference because it gives her a chance to reconnect with friends and grow spiritually.

Scott Whittemore - Bethany (Loudoun) UMC

Scott has been blessed to experience the last 2 annual conferences and has found the services and fellowship with others to be spiritually moving and inspiring. As church council chair, he hopes to foster his spiritual growth and leadership as the church moves to a single board model.

Malissa Wilson - Mount Pleasant UMC

Malissa Wilson is the wife of Pastor Penny Wilson, an elder at Mount Pleasant - Pine Grove Charge. She has been in UMC Churches for over 23 years, has served on various committees and attended worship services and Annual Conferences. She is the mother of two adult children. She enjoys music, artistic creativity, and being a dog mom.

Young Adult/College Members at Large Represent the Shenandoah River District

All Young Adult and/or College Members shall be 18-35 years of age and shall have been members of churches in the Virginia Annual Conference for at least two years.

Jacquez (Jac) Bridges - Bethany UMC (Augusta) UMC

Jacquez has been a member of Bethany UMC for 9 years and has served as a greeter, communion steward, and is currently the Young Adult Coordinator. Jacquez attended the Annual Conference as a guest for about 10 years before serving as an At-Large District Delegate for 2 years.

Horne, Sheridan - RISE

Sheriden is a 2025 JMU Graduate. Substitute teaching while she applies for the Air Force.

Macklin Wright - RISE

Macklin is a recent Radford graduate. Elementary school teacher in Augusta County VA.

Youth Members at Large Represent the Shenandoah River District

All Youth At-Large members shall be between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age and shall have been members of churches in the Virginia Annual Conference for at least two years.

Tori Becek - Leesburg UMC

Tori is in 9th grade. She has been involved in church her whole life. She is active in youth groups. She plays the piano and enjoys theatre. She has participated in a community youth leadership retreat for the past three years.

Caleb Cho - (Churches in the Shenandoah River District)

Caleb has been attending several different churches within the district with his family, as his father currently serves as District Superintendent. He was elected as an at-large delegate for the Northern Virginia District last year, and has attended every Annual Conference throughout his life.

John Cho - (Churches in the Shenandoah River District)

If elected, John will attend his 13th Virginia Annual Conference (and first as a delegate). The youngest of three in a pastor's family, with father dad now serving as District Superintendent, John has been an active youth member throughout his life.

Joshua Cho - (Churches in the Shenandoah River District)

Joshua, a child of the District Superintendent, enjoys visiting churches across the district with his family. He has served as a Northern Virginia District at-large delegate for three years. A fun fact: Joshua appeared in the "Imagine No Malaria" campaign video produced by the conference when he was five.

Joshua Foster - Market Street UMC

Joshua Foster was born on December 15, 2008 and is 16 years old. He attends Gainesville High School and lives in Haymarket, Virginia. He has attended the annual conference three times and enjoys going yearly. He would love to go once again and serve where he can.

Karissa Signor - Strasburg UMC

Karissa is a senior at Strasburg High School aiming to be a history teacher. Likes hobbies such as reading and baking. Lifelong member of the Strasburg United Methodist Church and enjoys volunteering at and attending church events.

Trey Signor - Strasburg UMC

Trey is an outgoing talkative person with good conversation skills and very proud and strong in his faith and relationship with Jesus. He partakes in school activities like basketball and was elected for this year's sophomore homecoming court.

Andrew Veverka - Mount Hermon UMC

Andrew is a conscientious and mature young man. He turns 18 in April of 2026 and could attend either as a youth or a young adult. He is a regular participant in his church's worship service serving as an acolyte, a scripture reader, and as the worship leader on youth Sundays.

**Shenandoah River District
Virginia Annual Conference of the
United Methodist Church**

**78 Brook Creek Road
Toms Brook, VA 22660**

**Coming January, 2026 - Mailing Address for the district will be
forthcoming**

540.433.2382 office phone

**District Office Hours: Monday - Thursday (remotely)
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Fridays - 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho
Email: ShenandoahRiverDS@vaumc.org 540-575-6406**

**District Developer for Clergy Formation: Rev. Dr. Andy Brock
Email: AndyBrock@vaumc.org 540-575-6405**

**District Developer of Congregational Innovation: Rev. Tommy Stelzl
Email: TommyStelzl@vaumc.org 540-575-6407**

**District Administrator: Debbie Creech
Email: DebbieCreech@vaumc.org 540-575-6404**

SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT WEBPAGE



ADDENDUM TO 2025 DISTRICT CONFERENCE BOOKLET

CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORTS

Report to the Shenandoah River District Conference
Campus Ministry at Shenandoah University

It is my joy and privilege to share this report on the ministry taking place at Shenandoah University (SU) as part of the Spiritual Life team. The United Methodist presence on campus continues to be a vital witness of Christ's love among students, faculty, and staff.

Worship and Preaching I actively participate in the Sunday evening chapel service, where students gather for worship, prayer, and reflection. I also have the opportunity to preach regularly, proclaiming the gospel of grace in ways that connect with the questions and challenges students face in their daily lives. In addition, I support our athletic community by joining the football team's chapel service, offering encouragement and spiritual grounding as they prepare for competition.

Bible Studies and Faith Formation This year, I have expanded faith formation opportunities by offering Bible studies in Spanish, creating a welcoming space for Hispanic/Latino students and others interested in engaging Scripture in that language. These gatherings not only nurture spiritual growth but also affirm the cultural and linguistic diversity of our campus community.

Mission and Service Looking ahead, I am organizing a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) trip to Mexico during spring break. This experience will provide SU students with the opportunity to serve, learn, and build relationships across cultures while living out their faith in tangible ways.

Connection to the United Methodist Church One of my priorities is to deepen the relationship between SU and the Virginia Annual Conference. Our ongoing involvement demonstrates how campus ministry is not only a support to students but also a vital expression of the Church's mission in higher education. I am grateful for the prayers, financial support, and encouragement that the District and the Conference continue to provide.

Pastoral Care and Presence A significant part of my ministry is being available for pastoral care—walking alongside students, faculty, and staff in times of joy, stress, and need. Offering a listening ear, prayer, and spiritual guidance continues to be an important witness of Christ's love on our campus.

Conclusion Campus ministry at SU is a growing and dynamic expression of United Methodist witness. Through worship, Bible study, mission, and pastoral presence, we are helping students encounter Christ and live out their faith in community. I ask for your continued prayers and support as we nurture the next generation of leaders for the Church and the world.

In God's Service,
Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez United Methodist Chaplain Shenandoah University

Randolph Academy

THE POWER OF RISE

Randolph-Macon Academy holds the unique status of being the only United Methodist affiliated secondary school in the Virginia Conference. Consistent with our 133 years of commitment to developing young people in mind, body, and spirit to lead and positively impact the world they inhabit, R-MA continues to evolve and adapt for modern world realities while standing on the unchanging foundation of God and holding fast to our covenant with the United Methodist Church.

In a boarding school environment, we are uniquely equipped to share all aspects of life together, including academic and spiritual formation, intergenerational relationships, sports, clubs, meals, prayers, worship, community, and fellowship. The Chaplain lives on campus and leads a vital, active, and student focused Spiritual Life program that is centered on intentional, disciplined, and organized faith formation.

This year, 275 students plus 60 faculty and staff attended chapel service every week. Scripture reading, proclamation, song, prayer, and sacraments are part of our regular formative practices. 35-40 students voluntarily lead and/or attend weekly Bible study. 45 students are enrolled in World Religions class. 25 students and adults participated in a retreat and service project at Camp Highroads that has resulted in deepening relationships. 10 students participated in confirmation and 4 students were baptized.

In the interfaith arena, 15 Muslim students were actively supported and accommodated during the holy month of Ramadan. Muslim students also participated in weekly Isha prayers and helped educate non-Muslim students about their faith practices. Approximately 5% of R-MA's student body is Jewish, Buddhist, or Hindu. The community held educational and ceremonial events for Diwali, Holi, and Bodhi Day. Our Jewish students observe Yom Kippur and Passover with a local Jewish congregation, and also educate non-Jewish students on other holy days, observances, and faith practices during our weekly chapel services. Participating in interfaith dialogue is a regular part of campus life.

Academically, 100% of our students were accepted into college or university, to include 14 appointments to military academies. Our students are globally, racially, socioeconomically, ethnically, and religiously diverse, representing 18 countries and every major world religion. Academic and spiritual formation, along with character and leadership development are embedded into the fabric of R-MA. Similar to our United Methodist roots, we understand that formation must always be intentional, relational, and immersive. As such, we create structures and rhythms to ensure that happens.

We are grateful for our partnership with the United Methodist Church and commit fully to our covenant, discipleship, academic excellence, and fruitful ministry. We prayerfully request continued support from the Conference and District. Your support aids in producing a vital faith and tangible, measured fruit in the current generation of disciples.

You are welcome to visit us anytime and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about our community, mission, students, and covenant.

Rev. Monica Reynolds – Academy Chaplain



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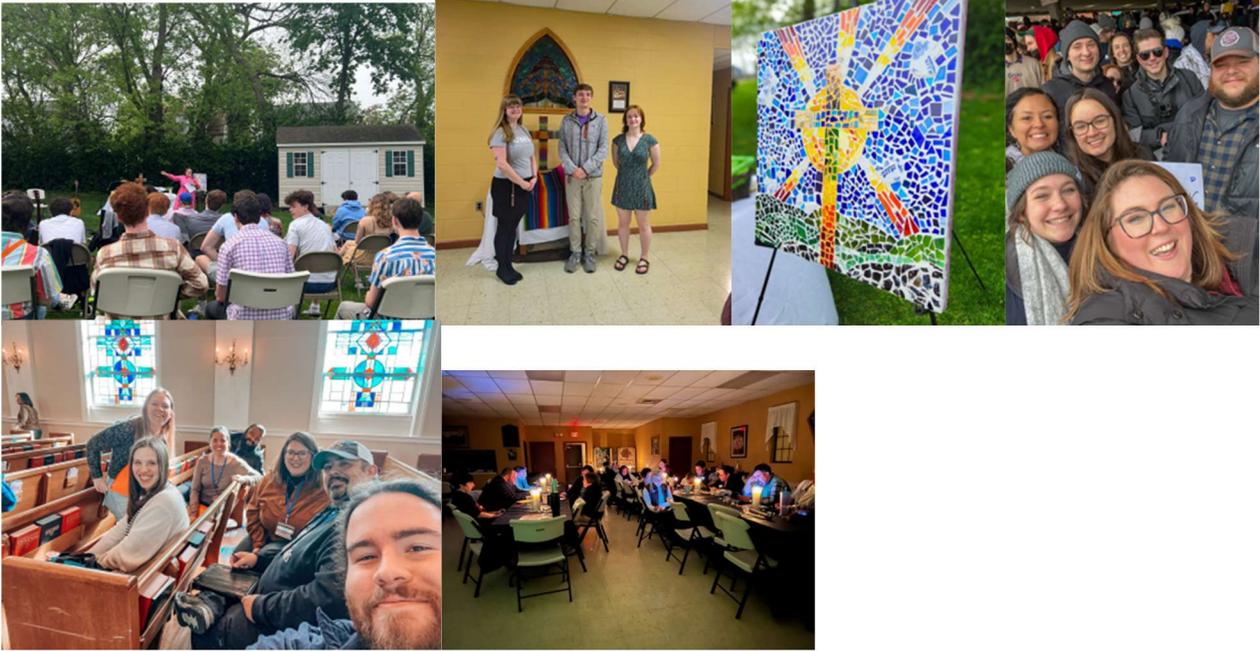


RISE CAMPUS MINISTRY

This year we celebrated the 15th Anniversary of RISE, with community art projects like tie dying RISE t-shirts, creating recycled glass mosaics, and painting mini flower pots on campus for dorm room windows. We held small groups in the park and went on hikes to reconnect with creation. We attended protests and helped to get students on campus registered to vote to encourage social awareness, action and responsibility. We volunteered in the food pantries on campus at JMU, packed bags for our backpack program with local elementary schools, and prepared meals for the unhoused at the Harrisonburg Navigation center to remind students to be good neighbors. We held worship, small groups, discussion, and lunch groups to engage in scripture, connect with God and refuel our souls.

In November 2024 we partnered with John Wesley UMC (Harrisonburg) to begin a beautiful journey in connection with one another! RISE now holds worship and one time events in the JWUMC Fellowship hall or on the lawn! This space has allowed us to both expand our worship experiences, as well as address issues of food insecurity among college students by hosting a Wednesday night dinner church.

- Prayers: Students are wrestling with leaving home for the first time, questions about their identity and place in the world. It can be a really overwhelming time and knowing that there are people who care and are offering prayer is invaluable.
- Students: If you have or know a high school senior who is looking at colleges please get them in contact with the UMC campus minister at their university. If you do not know who that is RISE would be happy to help!
- Financial: At RISE we like to say “God gives to us and we give back”. Your financial gifts allow us to love and support students through food, book studies, internships, and more!



Rev. Alexis Owens
RISE