

E-HEADLINER

VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ANNUAL DAY - NOVEMBER 4, 2021

The Virginia Council of Churches Annual Day gathering is November 4, 2021; starting at 10:00 a.m., this event will be hybrid; via Zoom and at key locations in Northern, Eastern, Western, Southern and Central VA. The goal is keeping everyone safe while also providing participants the opportunity to meet, maintaining the CDC guidelines for COVID and its variants.

The 2021 theme is "**Ministry Beyond the Wall: Moving Forward Together in Christ**" based on scripture Isaiah 43:18-31 and Revelations 21:1-7. This year's Annual Day will explore how this day is an opportunity to

share where we are and what we have learned during the pandemic. How we move forward from discussion to particular action(s) in moving ahead collectively; how do we move forward supporting each other.

The theological foundation will be presented by the Dr. J. W. Kinney, Distinguished Professor of Theology, Director, Center for African American Pentecostalism and Leadership Development and pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Beaverdam, VA. Following Dr. Kinney's presentation will be a question-and-answer session, followed by responses from the Next Generation of Ecumenists and VCC's President.

This year there will be small group discussions, networking and presenting the next steps. Block November 4, 2021 and plan to be present! Younger and newer leadership is leading VCC forward.

The final step for the day will be the presentation of the Faith In Action and Lifetime Ecumenist Awards. The registration for this event is \$25.00. Please use this link to register - <https://fs7.formsite.com/VACouncil/form55/index.html?1633916051902>.

CAMP BETHEL FALL VOLUNTEER WORKDAY - NOVEMBER 6, 2021

Our fall volunteer workday will be Saturday, November 6, 2021 beginning with a free breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Volunteers will also receive a free lunch at 1 p.m. We need your help preparing camp for the winter conference season. There will be workday projects for all skill levels and all ages. This event will be held rain or shine, inside or out. Please reserve your meals by October 31 at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/workday.

HOLIDAY HOURS AT THE DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER

The District Resource Center will be closed in preparation for the Virgina District Conference on Friday, November 12.

We will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday beginning on Wednesday, November 24, at 6 p.m. until Monday, November 29, at 9 a.m.

We will also be closed for the Christmas Holiday beginning on Thursday, December 23, at 6 p.m. until Tuesday, December 27, at 9 a.m. and for the New Year Holiday beginning on Thursday, December 30, at 6 p.m. until Monday, January 3, 2022 at 9 a.m.



We do monitor telephone messages and e-mail periodically when the center is closed. The District Executive Minister will be on vacation November 21-27, 2021 and December 26, 2021 - January 3, 2022.

VIRLINA DISTRICT CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER 12-13, 2021

The 2021 Virlina District Conference is currently scheduled to be held Friday, November 12- Saturday, November 13 at Grandin Court Baptist Church on 2660 Brambleton Avenue in Roanoke, Virginia. Friday night's featured speaker will be the 2022 Annual Conference moderator, Dave Sollenberger.

We hope to hold worship and business sessions in person, although plans for the conference may change at any time. The Program and Arrangements Committee, chaired by Moderator Greg Fleshman of Mount Union Church of the Brethren, has been monitoring the CDC guidelines as well as watching the current climate of potential COVID cases and its variants in our region. The Program and Arrangements committee is committed to providing a safe and meaningful conference experience for all attendees.

Pastors and congregations were recently sent a mailing that included details of the conference, registration forms for delegates and meal and age group information. The Virlina District website, www.virlina.org has a District Conference tab that details conference plans and/or changes as soon as they are updated. Please contact Mary St. John, Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness, virlina2@aol.com or (540) 362-1816 with questions or concerns.

CHRISTMAS TOGETHER BANQUET - DECEMBER 9, 2021

Camp Bethel's Christmas TOGETHER Banquet on Thursday, December 9, beginning at 6:30 p.m. includes an excellent dinner and fun Christmas program in our festive, decorated Ark Dining Hall. Your gift of \$50 per person (larger gifts accepted) will provide much needed year-end funding for Camp Bethel. Our collective support of Camp Bethel puts TOGETHERness into practice as described in Acts 2:43-47. Please R.S.V.P. your family or group by December 2 at campbetheloffice@gmail.com or by calling us at (540) 992-2940.

CLERGY TAX SEMINAR - JANUARY 29, 2022

Clergy, students and anyone who deals with clergy finances such as congregational treasurers are invited to participate in this online Zoom seminar. Learn how to prepare clergy taxes correctly and legally. Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.

Clergy can earn 0.3 CEUs - for the morning session only.

The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will consist of two sessions:

Morning Session, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST, will focus on the rules surrounding Clergy Tax Returns, including who is subject to these rules, what income is subject to tax, and how to reduce total tax liability using various methods, including housing allowance, business expenses and medical reimbursement plans. Credit for 0.3 CEUs will be available for attending Session 1 only. According to the new webinar policy, CEUs may also be earned by viewing the recording and filling out the report form. (Registration is required to receive the recording.)

Afternoon Session, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. EST, participants will complete a clergy tax return using H&R Block's highest tier (Premium and Business) downloadable software.

This seminar is highly recommended for all clergy and anyone who deals with clergy finances who wish to understand clergy taxes, including treasurers, steward commission chairs, and church board chairs. It is sponsored by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry, and Bethany Theological Seminary

Seminar Schedule

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. EST: Morning session
2:00 p.m. -2:30 p.m. EST: Lunch on your own
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST: Afternoon session

Registration and Cost

Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Current Brethren Academy, Bethany Theological Seminary and Earlham School of Religion students may attend the seminar at no cost, although registration is still required to allow us to provide you with web access to the seminar. Instructions and handouts will be sent a few days prior to the event. Registrations are not complete until payment is received. For quality reasons, registrations may be capped at eighty-five persons. Prompt registration is advised at the registration deadline is January 19, 2022. A Zoom link will be sent prior to the seminar.

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES RETREAT - FEBRUARY 25-26, 2022

The Virlina District Ministers and Spouses Retreat has been rescheduled and is hoped to be held on February 25-26, 2022 at the W.E. Skelton 4-H and Conference Center located at 775 Hermitage Rd, Wirtz, VA 24184. Steven J. Schweitzer, Academic Dean and Professor at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Indiana, will lead the event. The focus is "Science Fiction and Theology."

This event provides .6 CEU credits for ordained or commissioned ministers. The cost of the event is \$150 for couples (or double occupancy), \$100 for single occupancy and \$50 for commuters (meals included). A mistake in the registration form/brochure indicates an October registration deadline. The correct deadline is February 18, 2022.

PILGRIMAGE XXIV - MARCH 18-20, 2022

Pilgrimage XXIV is now scheduled for March 18-20, 2022, at Camp Bethel. Individuals from 60 congregations in our district have participated in this spiritual retreat for adults.

Pilgrimage is for everyone who wants to draw closer to God. It is for the young and old, for the new Christian and the one who has been a Christian for decades. The retreat includes spiritual talks, small groups, fun times, inspiring worship services, and much more. God continues to work in wonderful ways through this ministry! Prayerfully consider your participation.

AWAKENING SERVICES - APRIL 3-6, 2022

The Awakening Services for congregations in the Roanoke-area, including Bedford, Botetourt and Franklin Counties, are scheduled to be held at the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren on April 3-6, 2022. These nightly services will feature the powerful preaching of Paul Munday, the immediate past Annual Conference Moderator. Bible studies will be held during the mornings of April 4-6 at selected area congregations. More information will be forthcoming.

SUMMER 2022 COUNSELORS & KITCHEN STAFF AT CAMP BETHEL

We seek hard-working and resilient young adults for our 2022 Summer Camp Staff. Counselors serve May 30 through July 23, pay is \$320/week, plus a \$325+ end-of-summer bonus, plus recruitment bonuses. Kitchen Staff serve May 30 through August 13, pay is \$350-or-\$420/week. Position descriptions, videos, and applications are at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/staff.

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE - JULY 23-28, 2022

National Youth Conference 2022 (NYC 2022) will focus on Colossians 2: 5-7 (NRSV) and the theme "Foundational." The event is scheduled for July 23-28, 2022. The registration fee, which includes food, lodging, and programming, will be \$550. This does not include transportation. However, Virlina District is working to help provide this. Tara Myers Riddle, a member of the Antioch Church of the Brethren, has been called by the district as coordinator. Youth who have completed ninth grade through one year of college at the time of NYC (or are age equivalent) and their advisors will gather at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. Online registration will open on December 1, 2021.

The theme scripture from Colossians 2:5-7 reads "For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

"Throughout the Bible, God is revealed as a foundation for our lives in many ways. Some examples of this are the cornerstone, the way God can be seen as an anchor for our lives, and how we remain rooted in God in all circumstances," wrote Erika Clary, 2022 NYC Coordinator.

Members of the National Youth Cabinet include Ben Tatum (Virginia), Bella Torres (Atlantic Northeast), Elise Gage (MidAtlantic), Geo Romero (Illinois/Wisconsin), Hayley Daubert (Shenandoah), and Luke Schweitzer (Southern Ohio/ Kentucky). Advisors include Kayla Alphonse (Atlantic Southeast) and Jason Haldeman (Atlantic Northeast). The Cabinet is led by Erika Clary and accompanied by Becky Ullom Naugle, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

Watch for NYC 2022 updates at www.brethren.org/yya/nyc/ and on social media (Facebook: National Youth Conference; Instagram: @cobnyc2022).

WORLD HUNGER AUCTION DISTRIBUTES \$54,000

The World Hunger Auction Committee has announced the distribution of funds from the 2021 World Hunger activities. Out of a total of \$54,000 raised, we have designated the following:

\$26,625 for Heifer International
\$13,312.50 for Roanoke Area Ministries
\$5,325 for the Global Food Initiative
\$2,662.50 for Heavenly Manna
\$2,662.50 for Stepping Stone Mission
\$2,662.50 for Lake Christian Ministries
\$750 for His Cupboard.

Thanks to all who have contributed money, items, labor and resources this year. The 2022 Auction is scheduled for August at the Antioch Church of the Brethren.

COME TO BETHLEHEM AND SEE! - DECEMBER 4, 2021

"Come to Bethlehem and See..." Travel through an outdoor live nativity program at Bethlehem Church of the Brethren at 4250 Bethlehem Road, Boones Mill, VA 24065. Come experience the story of Christmas as you walk by scenes of Mary and Joseph, shepherds with their sheep, angels, and wisemen. This year we will not have refreshments. Golf cart rides are available to assist your tour. Please join us anytime between 6 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 4th and enjoy this Christmas story. This program will not be held if there is rain, snow or cold temperatures. If you would like to be a character in our live nativity (costumes provided) our church would love for you to join us. Please let Sharon Grindstaff know if you would like to participate and she can work out further details. For information or questions, contact Sharon G. Grindstaff at (540) 493-7252 or grindstaffsharon@gmail.com.

NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT 2022 LEARNING TOURS

NCP Learning Tours build community with our neighbors, explore important justice and environmental concerns, and offer opportunities to reflect on the connections between our world and their world. Expect basic but safe accommodations, an encounter with other cultures and ecosystems, good traveling companions, and plenty to think about. Trips are open to people of all ages, with every effort made to create experiences for folks from across the age and ability spectrum. Cost excludes airfare and visas, but includes all on-the-ground expenses. - All trips subject to change depending on COVID restrictions -

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*Continuing the work of Jesus.
Peacefully.
Simply.
Together.*



Africa - Dates To Be Determined

Cost: \$1450, plus airfare and visas (Student - \$1,050)

Experience African culture, vitality and natural wonders on this trip to one or more of the following countries (to be determined): Rwanda, Nigeria, South Sudan, Malawi. Visit women's groups and reforestation programs receiving NCP assistance, girls supported by scholarships and bicycles, and be wowed by wildlife in a National Park.

Ecuadorian Amazon - Deep Jungle - June 3 - 9

Cost: \$900, plus airfare to and from Quito (Student - \$825) Head deep into the Amazon Rainforest to the "non-touristy" areas to experience one of the most bio-diverse - and threatened - spots on earth. Explore the rainforest, guided by Siona Delio; see monkeys, birds, pink dolphins, the ceiba tree ("Spirit Tree")-maybe even a jaguar; observe the impacts of oil drilling and ranching; visit indigenous Cofan, Siona, Kichwah, and Secopai native communities and NCP forest preservation efforts; accommodations in comfortable native-owned lodges while in the forest.

Diné (Navajo) Reservation - New Mexico - June 23 - 28 Cost: \$175 (student: \$125)

Experience the beauty of and challenges facing the land and people on the Diné reservation. Help with work projects in this community northwest of Albuquerque; learn about the history of the Diné; explore current social issues, spiritual practices and the impacts of fracking; see local artists at work; visit nearby Chaco Culture NHP.

For more information or to register, visit www.newcommunityproject.info or contact David Radcliff by telephone at (540) 855-1199, by e-mail at dradcliff@newcommunityproject.org or by U.S. Mail at New Community Project, 117 Nature Road, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE E-HEADLINER IS PROJECTED FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2021.

A PRINTABLE COLOR VERSION OF THE E-HEADLINER WILL BE AVAILABLE AT www.virlina.org