



The Foundation Ledger

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Michael Humphries, courtesy of Unsplash

Maximize Use of Your Building

By the Rev. Tommy Herndon
VP of Legacy Giving & Stewardship Development

I recently visited a church that needs help with ideas of how to use the facility to bring in more revenue. The church has a substantial loan, and while growing in attendance, they still need some more funding at the end of each month.

After a walk-through of the building, many ideas were shared.

One opportunity would be to start a day care center or preschool. The steps toward such a program are relatively straightforward. The first step is for a State of Virginia day care representatives to do a walk-through. A day care expert can identify which alterations are needed

to make a facility ready for children. In addition, the church needs a tenant from the community who wants to start their own business and will pay rent to the church. The other option would be for a member of the congregation to be interested in running a church-owned day care.

Another idea is to find a chef who might like to run a catering

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business out of their kitchen. This church has a commercial kitchen equipped for producing large quantities of food. To complement the kitchen, this church has a large family life center that can be used to accommodate large groups for meetings and retreats.

Additionally, a private school is exploring the prospect of using their facility to conduct classes. The church has lots of classrooms and bathrooms which would work very well for weekday education. Their family life center is already being used for pickleball and basketball groups, but the schedule has many open spots for more groups to rent these facilities.

A suggestion was made for the church to contact the local parks and recreation department who might be looking for facilities to hold events.

Another possibility is to convert a room into a sound studio which could provide support for church musicians and musical productions, as well as for individuals who might want to record a soundtrack. This room could also be used for piano, organ, guitar and other music lessons.



Andrew Seaman, courtesy of Unsplash

Maintenance of older buildings can put a strain on a church's annual budget, so it's helpful to find additional ways of utilizing facilities to augment a church's budget.

The process of thinking about new ideas has just begun for this congregation. This list will grow as we make contacts and learn more about new possibilities. If you would like assistance with developing new ideas, contact us at the Virginia United Methodist Foundation and Development Company. We will be happy to dream dreams and envision the vision with you.

Contact:
Tommy Herndon (tommyherndon@vaumc.org) or
Randy Shelton (randyshelton@vaumc.org).

Current Foundation Fund Performance

	Since Inception	Sept. 2023	YTD 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Balanced Fund	6.32%	(3.50)%	4.24%	(13.00)%	8.69%	12.65%	21.36%	(7.11)%	15.72%
Balanced Plus Fund	5.12%	(2.88)%	4.83%	(11.24)%	8.98%	9.45%	18.82%	(4.95)%	14.45%
Stock Fund	9.41%	(3.96)%	6.92%	(12.60)%	14.31%	15.14%	28.69%	(9.40)%	22.79%
Bond Fund	0.39%	(2.32)%	0.53%	(12.49)%	(1.96)%	5.99%	7.97%	(0.55)%	3.49%

Sound Footings

By Bo Bowden
President of the Foundation

Greetings, Virginia Conference members and affiliates!

Members of our staff recently returned from the Denominational Investors and Loan Administrators (DILA) Conference, an association of seasoned leaders who convene annually to discuss common challenges – in recent years a combination of post-pandemic recovery, denominational change, and financial headwinds caused by rising interest rates and inflation. The meeting confirmed that the Foundation and DevCo have taken the proper measures to maintain ongoing financial stability. Both organizations' operating revenues continue to exceed operating expenses, and liquidity remains adequate to meet short and long-term obligations.

This year the meeting was held in Utah. I took a few days of vacation beforehand to explore Zion National Park and Bryce Canyon National Park. Among the many attractions in Zion are The Narrows, where hikers forge a shallow stream at the bottom of a gorge. It had rained the day before, and although conditions were not ideal, my hike offered the perspective the area is famous for, as well as a reminder: sometimes it's necessary to wade into murky waters to see what lies ahead.

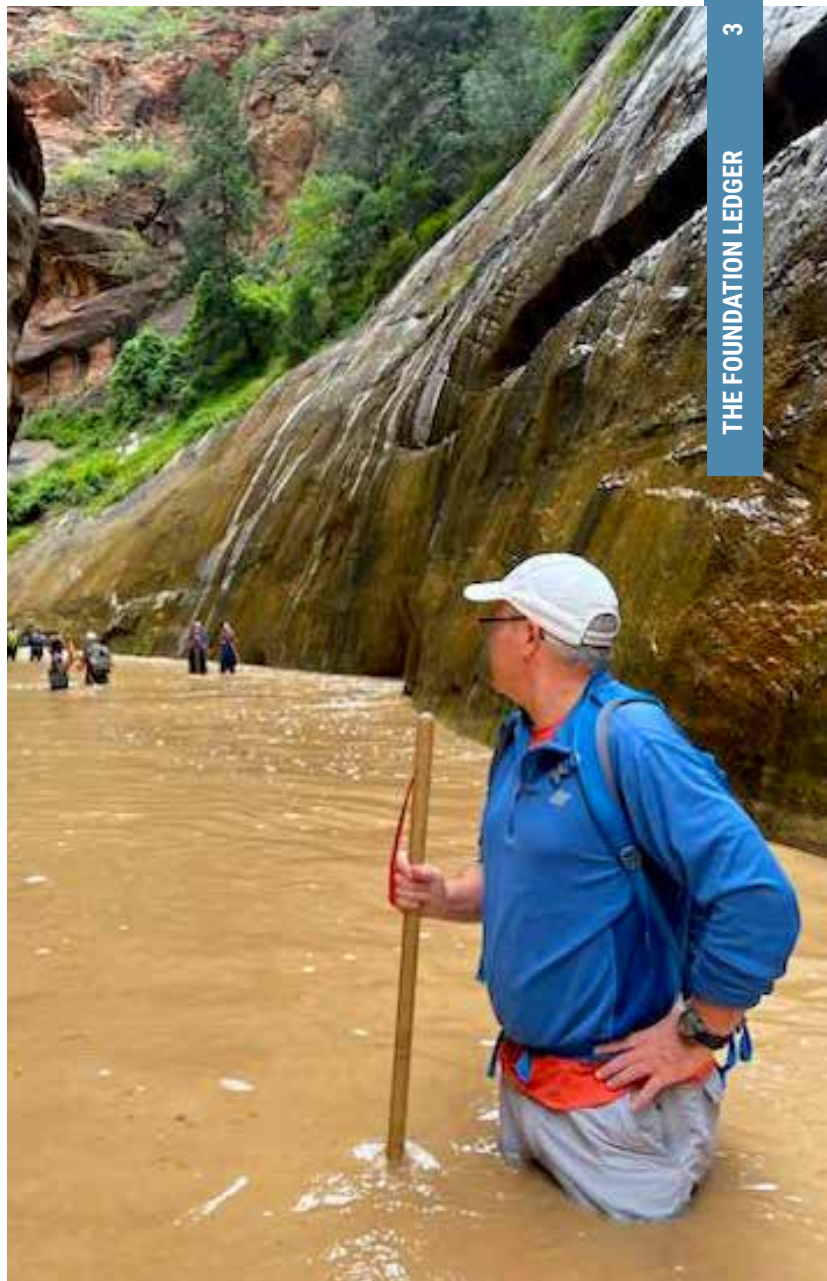
It's important that our leadership takes a long-term view in anticipation of continued denominational changes. By the time this newsletter is released, the Conference will have considered its final round of disaffiliation requests under Section 2553. Once the lists of such requests are available, we review them to contemplate how the Foundation and DevCo could be affected. While we would prefer that there be no disaffiliations at all, we acknowledge their existence and our commitments to our clients, including those who choose to depart the denomination. As a servicing organization of the Virginia Conference – our continuing obligation is to maintain financial stability for its members, churches and ministries. We're in excellent financial position to do that.



Now we turn our attention to future growth. In our visits to churches, we continue to be reminded that these are the places where ministry comes to life. Our pledge is to support the ministry of the UMC, even as its structure evolves. We are delighted when you invite us into your churches, and we come away encouraged that they remain vital parts of our communities. We appreciate our relationships with you and will continue to look for ways to support you in the future. Please let us know how we can help.

See you on the trail!

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THE FOUNDATION LEDGER



Bart Larue, courtesy of Unsplash

Grants Deadline is October 31, 2023

Three Categories of Funding Available

The Virginia United Methodist Foundation awards a limited number of grants to Virginia United Methodist Churches and affiliated agencies of the Virginia United Methodist Conference.

Through these awards of grant dollars, we seek to enhance and expand these ministries.

Grants are made only for programs and ministries (including operating expenses and supplies) necessary for those programs or activities. They are not made for building repair, replacement, or expansion.

Foundation grant awards are reviewed by the Foundation's Grants Committee. The committee

makes a recommendation to the full board of directors to be voted on at the December board meeting. Please contact us at foundationgrants@vaumc.org if you have any questions about Foundation grants or the grant application process.

The deadline to submit grant applications is October 31, 2023.

UMHEF Scholarship Awards

The Virginia United Methodist Foundation congratulates the following students who have been awarded scholarships by the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF). Through the Dollars for Scholars program, the Foundation's contribution is quadrupled. We wish the students well in their academic pursuits! Learn more at www.umhef.org.

Scholarships



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STUDENT	ATTENDING	HOME CHURCH	DISTRICT
Scott M. Bach-Hansen	Wesley Theological Seminary	St. Matthew's United Methodist Church	Northern Virginia
Willow C. Baker	Virginia Wesleyan University	Baylake United Methodist Church	Coastal Virginia
Robert M. Bays	Shenandoah University	Main Street United Methodist Church	Mountain View
Caroline Berry	Shenandoah University	Shady Grove United Methodist Church	Three Notch'd
Hailey L. Brown	Randolph-Macon College	Mount Zion United Methodist Church	Mission Rivers
David L. Compton	Shenandoah University	Main Street United Methodist Church	Mountain View
Emily M. Halferty	Randolph-Macon College	Shady Grove United Methodist Church	Three Notch'd
Mary K. Kendall	Randolph-Macon College	Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church	Three Notch'd
Matthew D. Luck	Randolph-Macon College	Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church	Three Notch'd
Rachel M. Mason	Randolph-Macon College	Farmville United Methodist Church	Living Waters
Kaitlyn M. Priest	Randolph-Macon College	Ebenezer United Methodist Church	Mission Rivers
Justin B. Robins	Duke University Divinity School	Shady Grove United Methodist Church	Three Notch'd
Samuel H. Turner	Emory & Henry College	Bon Air United Methodist Church	Three Notch'd
Meredith D. Webb	Candler School of Theology	Main Street United Methodist Church	Living Waters