

VIRLINA DISTRICT

Church
Of the
Brethren



MEMO FOR MINISTERS

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2022

- 1 Office/Commission on Ministry at Roanoke, First
- 2 OPEN
- 3 Worship Undetermined/Travel to Elgin, IL
- 4 Council of District Executives/Leadership Team
- 5 Council of District Executives/Leadership Team
- 6 Council of District Executives/Leadership Team/Travel
- 7 VACATION
- 8 VACATION
- 9 VACATION
- 10 Preach at Saunders Grove/Crumpacker Memorial Service
- 11 Office
- 12 Office
- 13 Staff Meeting/Office
- 14 OFF
- 15 Good Friday/DRC CLOSED
- 16 OPEN
- 17 Preach At New Bethel
- 18 Office/Southern Area Ministers and Spouses at Eden, First
- 19 Office/Long Range Financial Planning Committee at Germantown Brick
- 20 Staff Meeting/Office
- 21 OFF/NRHS Roanoke Chapter
- 22 Christian Growth Institute Staff Meeting/Ministry Advisory Council (Z)
- 23 OPEN
- 24 Preach and Installation at Fraternity/Ordination of Amber T Harris
- 25 Office/El Buen Pastor Steering Committee at Meadows of Dan
- 26 Virginia Council of Churches Steering Committee
- 27 Staff Meeting/Office
- 28 OFF
- 29 Office
- 30 OPEN

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2022

- 1 Worship Undetermined/Ordination of Naomi L. Powers at Daleville
- 2 Discipleship and Reconciliation/New Church Development Committee at Moneta, Lake Side
- 3 Office/Long Range Financial Planning Committee at Oak Grove-South
- 4 Staff Meeting/Office
- 5 OFF
- 6 Office
- 7 Ministry and Mission Day and Delegate Briefing at Fairview (Rocky Mount)
- 8 Worship at Daleville (Mother's Day)
- 9 Office/Historical Committee
- 10 Virginia Council of Churches Coordinating Cabinet
- 11 Staff Meeting/Office
- 12 OFF
- 13 Office
- 14 OPEN
- 15 Worship at Bethany/Placement Consultation/Ordination of Carlton R. Hodges at Red Hill
- 16 Office/Southern Area Ministers and Spouses at Germantown Brick
- 17 Awakening Committee/Office

ROOM REMAINS ON THE NYC BUSES!

There is still room on the motor coaches chartered by the district for National Youth Conference (NYC). Any youth from Grades 9 - 12 or in the freshman year of college is eligible to participate in NYC. The pre-conference tour will visit the Badlands, Custer State Park, Bear Country, Mount Rushmore, the St. Louis Arch and more for only \$450/person. The bus trip is from July 19 through July 30, 2022. A \$200 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your spot on the bus.

Thanks to a generous monetary gift, the cost per person has been cut by more than half to \$450! Flyers and registrations forms were mailed to all congregations. Please contact bus trip coordinator Tara Riddle at <timtarariddle@gmail.com> or by calling (540) 352-2217 for more information.

The deadline for early registration for National Youth Conference, held at Colorado State University, is April 1. An additional \$50 will be added to the \$550/person fee after that date. Registration for NYC is separate from the bus trip.

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2022

18	Staff Meeting/Office
19	OFF
20	Office
21	Nominating & Personnel Committee
22	Worship Undetermined
23	Office
24	Office/Executive Committee
25	Staff Meeting/Office
26	OFF
27	VACATION
28	VACATION
29	Worship Undetermined
30	HOLIDAY/DRC CLOSED
31	Office/Commission on Stewardship at Topeco

MARY SINK ST. JOHN SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2022

1	IYC Senior High Retreat/Camp Bethel
4	OFF
5	Office
6	Staff Meeting/Office
7	Office
8	Office
9	Sounds of the Mountains/Camp Bethel
11	OFF
12	Office/Race Education Team (Z)
13	Staff Meeting/Office
14	Office
15	Good Friday/DRC CLOSED
18	Office/Southern Area Ministers - Eden, First
19	Office/Commission on Witness
20	Staff Meeting/Office
21	Office
22	Office
25	OFF
26	Office
27	Staff Meeting/Office
28	Office
29	Office

MARY SINK ST. JOHN SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2022

2	OFF
3	Office
4	Staff Meeting/Office
5	Office
6	Leadership Conference - Fairview, Rocky Mount
7	MINISTRY AND MISSION DAY/Fairview, Rocky Mount
9	OFF/Disaster Response Committee (Z)
10	Office/Race Education Team (Z)
11	Staff Meeting/Office
12	Office
13	Office
16	OFF
17	Office
18	Staff Meeting/Office
19	Office
20	Office
21	Program and Arrangements Committee/Nominating and Personnel Committee
23	OFF
24	Office
25	Staff Meeting/Office
26	Office
27	Office
30	HOLIDAY/DRC CLOSED
31	Office

NORTHERN AREA MINISTERS MEETING

The Northern Area Ministers will be meeting at the Troutville Church of the Brethren on Monday, April 4, 2022 at 9 a.m. This will be a meal less meeting. Tim Harvey, pastor of the Oak Grove Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, will present a program updating the work of the "Gun Violence Commission" in the city.

SOUTHERN AREA MINISTERS AND SPOUSES

The Southern Area Ministers and Spouses will be meeting at the Eden, First Church of the Brethren on Monday, April 18, 2022 at 6 p.m. Please confirm your presence by calling or emailing Pastor Doug Diamond by Friday, April 15. Following the meal, the program for the evening will be provided by the Race Education Team of the Virginia District Board's Commission on Witness.

RECENT AND UPCOMING MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Harold E. Boyd, pastor of the Hollins Road Church in Roanoke, was ordained on March 27.

Amber T. Harris, a member of the Peace Covenant Church in Durham, NC, will be ordained on April 24 at 4 p.m. at the Burkhead U.M.C. in Winston-Salem.

Naomi L. Powers, co-pastor at Daleville, will be ordained there at 4 p.m. on May 1.

Carlton R. Hodges, pastor at Red Hill, will be ordained on May 15 at 4 p.m.

PASTORAL PLACEMENT REPORT

- **BASSETT** - Part or full time position, profile pending - R. Douglas Jones serving as pulpit supply.
- **BETHANY** - Part time position, no profile available - Emma Jean Woodard serving as interim pastor.
- **BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.
- **BETHLEHEM** - Part time position, profile circulating (4) - Horace D. Light, Jr. serving as interim pastor.
- **COPPER HILL** - *William J. Hinton, Sr. called as full time pastor effective February 1, 2022.*
- **FAIRVIEW (ROCKY MOUNT)** - Part time position, no profile available - Edward C. Woodard serving as pulpit supply through April.
- **GREEN HILL** - Part time position, profile circulating (2) - J. Michael Varner serving as interim pastor.
- **LIGHTHOUSE** - Part time position, no profile available - Don D. Street, layspeaker from Mount Hermon, serving as pulpit supply.
- **MAPLE GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - Jermiah Beasley serving as pulpit supply.
- **MASONS COVE** - *Part time position, no profile available - Charles DeHart serving as pulpit supply.*
- **MONETA, LAKE SIDE** - Part time position, profile circulating - Christian J. Becker serving as pulpit supply.
- **MONTE VISTA** - Part time position, no profile available - Gina Wright-Hawkins serving as pulpit supply.
- **NEW BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.
- **NEWPORT NEWS, IVY FARMS** - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.
- **OAK GROVE, SOUTH (2)** - *Amiel Tutolo called as part time pastor effective April 1, 2022.*
- **OAKVALE** - Part time position, no profile available - Joshua Lucas continues as associate pastor.
- **PLEASANT VIEW** - Part time position, no profile available - John P. Reed, Sr. serving as pulpit supply through April.
- **ROANOKE, IGLESIA CRISTIANA RENACER** - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.
- **SAINT PAUL** - Part time position, no profile available - Not meeting due to COVID-19.
- **SELMA** - Part time position, no profile available - Alvis Jackson serving as pulpit supply.
- **SHELTON** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.
- **SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE COMMUNITY** - *Part time position, profile pending - Tabitha H. Rudy has resigned effective April 30, 2022.*

KENTUCKY TORNADO OFFERING ENDS ON APRIL 7, 2022

- On December 10, 2021, an intense tornado mowed through Western Kentucky, producing severe to cataclysmic damage in several towns. Passing through eleven counties throughout its duration, the tornado was exceptionally long-lived, traveling over 165 miles. It was the most lethal tornado in an outbreak that produced many powerful tornadoes in several states. At least 77 fatalities resulted from the tornado.

- ALL OFFERINGS RECEIVED WILL BE MATCHED BY THE DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE. Thus far, we have received \$7,058.50 from nine congregations and \$3,450 from six individuals for a total of \$10,508.50. With the match from the Disaster Response Committee, the total as of March 29 was \$21,017.

- Offerings from congregations for the Kentucky Tornado Disaster Response may be sent to the District Resource Center. Please mark memo line KY Tornado - Acct. #33501 and forward these no later than April 7. When this effort concludes, we will focus on alleviating the suffering of the nation and people of Ukraine.

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY - MAY 1, 2022

- "FOUNDATIONAL" is the theme for National Youth Sunday in the Church of the Brethren on May 1, 2022. The themes is based on Colossians 2:5-7. Worship resources will soon be available at <https://www.brethren.org/yya/national-youth-sunday/>.

MCPHERSON COLLEGE - VENTURES IN CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP - NEXT COURSE - MAY 2, 2022

- The next offering from Ventures in Christian Discipleship will be "Spirituality on the Screen" to be held online Monday, May 2, at 7:00 p.m. (ET). The course will be presented by Walt Wiltschek.

- Even while culture seems to be drifting away from organized religion according to many recent surveys, faith pops up all over the place in television and film and elsewhere in media culture. How are God and other parts of faith being portrayed? And are these intersections a good thing? Join us to dig in deeper and discuss together.

- Walt Wiltschek started last year as part-time district executive minister for Illinois & Wisconsin and currently lives in Lombard, Ill. He also does part-time chaplaincy work for Illinois Wesleyan University. He previously served as pastor of Easton (Md.) Church of the Brethren, campus pastor at Manchester University in Indiana, and editor of Messenger magazine, for which he still does some writing and editing. He enjoys traveling, camp ministry, puns and wordplay, and cheering for various sports teams.

Continuing education credit is available for \$10 per course. During the registration process, you will have the opportunity to pay for CEUs and give an optional donation to the Ventures program. To learn more about Ventures in Christian Discipleship and to register for courses, visit www.mcpherson.edu/ventures.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: "When the Storms of Life are Raging" - MAY 6-7, 2022

Leading our congregations in a time of pandemic and partisanship! This season of the church's life has been one of learning new skills and adapting to uncertain times while also lamenting our losses and wondering if things will ever "return to normal." Where do our congregations go from here?

"When the Storms of Life are Raging" is a conference designed for Virlina pastors, lay leaders, and interested congregation members who want to talk about what it means to return to familiar patterns of congregational life and faithfully enter new times and territory while rebuilding our connections with God, community, and one another. We do this knowing some members have been lost and some attitudes have hardened in our 21st century hyper-politicized environment.

Our retreat leader is Jeff Smith, CEO of Voltage Leadership Consulting in Roanoke. Jeff has over 20 years of experience working with both secular and religious organizations, helping them expand their leadership potential. He is an active member of Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke and has served in several positions of leadership and on pastoral calling committees. This conference will be added to Ministry and Mission Day in Virlina. Sessions will be held on Friday evening, May 6 and Saturday afternoon, May 7, at Fairview (Rocky Mount) Church of the Brethren.

The workshops planned by district commissions and the delegate briefing led by our Annual Conference Moderator and Standing Committee delegates will be Saturday morning and early afternoon. The exact schedule and registration information will be published in later communications. CEU's will be available for this event.

MINISTRY AND MISSION DAY IN VIRLINA DISTRICT - MAY 7, 2022

Ministry and Mission Day in Virlina District is planned for Saturday, May 7, at the Fairview, Rocky Mount Church of the Brethren from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. We are excited to plan an "in person" event for a day of worship, workshops, lunch, and a delegate briefing with the 2022 Annual Conference moderator David Sollenberger.

The event begins with a worship service led by Patrick Starkey, pastor of the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren, who will speak the 2022 District Conference theme, "Bound Together by Love" from 1 John 4:21. The various commissions will be hosting workshops, most of which will provide CEU for pastors. Every member or friend of the Church of the Brethren is invited!

Among the workshops are those dealing with grief and recovery from the last two years, a presentation from the Race Education Team outlining what they can bring to our congregations, a session on recognizing and avoiding scams, and a deacon training workshop. An in-depth description of the workshops will be found on www.virlina.org and through a flyer sent to each congregation. After lunch, the Annual Conference Delegate Briefing will be led by Susan Chapman Starkey and Ed Woodard, our Standing Committee delegates. They will be joined by David Sollenberger, 2022 Annual Conference Moderator, who will be available to answer questions about the conference business and other matters of interest. All Annual Conference delegates, church leaders and interested persons are encouraged to attend this beginning at 1 p.m. More information will be available on our website at www.virlina.org or questions about events may be directed to Mary St. John at virlina2@aol.com or at (540) 362-1816.

NATIONAL YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE - MAY 27-30, 2022

The theme of the 2022 National Young Adult Conference (NYAC) is "I Am because We Are" based on Romans 12:5. NYAC is scheduled for May 27-30, 2022 at the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina. This event offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults! For more information go to <https://www.brethren.org/yya/yac/>

RESETTLEMENT OF UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

The U.S. Government has announced that our nation will accept 100,000 Ukrainian refugees. Several of our congregations have worked in past years to adopt and resettle persons and families from a variety of nations. While we do not know where such refugees may be directed, we would like to know if there is interest in any of our congregations working with Catholic Charities or Church World Service to do so. Perhaps more than one congregation in a specific area of concentration might do so together. Please advise us at nuchurch@aol.com.

ARK TREASURE HUNT !

We are excited to present an event for all congregations, families, groups, and adventure enthusiasts in selected areas of the district to go outside and explore together! The Treasure Hunt or the SEARCH FOR THE ARK, begins for congregations in the Henry County area on April 1, May 1 in Franklin County, and June 1 in Roanoke County.

Your quest is to find five ARKS of the covenant hidden outdoors in plastic containers. In each ARK are different color rubies or stones. Collect five different color rubies and receive a prize from the Virlina District, suitable for a family or small group. At least one person in your group will need a smart phone to download a QR code and the Turf Hunt app. Others will need their Bibles for some of the clues. Your first clue will be posted on-line the first day of the month at noon. Solve it, and you are on your way exploring and being an ARK seeker.

This fun project is an idea of our Moderator-Elect, Noel Naff, to provide opportunities for togetherness, fun, and Bible study for various areas of the Virlina District. A bulletin insert has been put on <www.virlina.org>, as well as a fun infomercial, featuring some faces you may recognize, explaining the hunt. Check the Virlina website now, or contact Mary St. John, Director of District Conference, Nurture, and Witness at <virlina2@aol.com> or (540) 362-1816 for more information.

RETIREMENT LETTER FROM DAVID K. SHUMATE, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER

For three decades I have been privileged to serve as District Executive Minister for the Virlina District of the Church of the Brethren. This experience has provided many opportunities for the development of rich relationships with pastors, congregational leaders, district and denominational staff persons, ecumenical peers, and many people from all walks of life. It has given me opportunity to travel throughout the district, this country, and three continents. The variety of activities involved with this role have stretched and strengthened me as a person, as a minister, and as a child of God.

It is now time to turn to another chapter in my life journey. I am now the longest serving current middle judicatory staff person in the Church of the Brethren and the Commonwealth of Virginia. I believe it is time for younger, energetic leadership to be sought for this role. In order to facilitate this, I plan to retire not later than December 31, 2022.

Nancy Heishman, Director of Ministry for the Church of the Brethren, serves as placement officer for the District Executive search process. She will assist the board in finding suitable candidates for the position. As was discussed in the Executive Committee, I am willing to have an overlap time in order to ensure a smooth transition for this vital role. It is my hope to continue to serve the district, denomination and the wider church in whatever role to which I might be called. Again, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and pray God's richest blessings for the board, the congregations and people of the Virlina District.

Yours In Christ,

David K. Shumate
District Executive

2022 VIRLINA DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The Virlina District Directory for 2022 is now at the printer. We anticipate these being mailed in early April. When you receive it, please check that your information is correct. If corrections need to be made, please notify us at **nuchurch@aol.com**.

SELF-ALLOCATION/FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

The Virlina District Financial Secretary Report for March 29, 2022 is attached. Please review your congregation's self-allocation giving for 2022 in consultation with your treasurer and draw any discrepancies to our attention. Your giving is vital to the mission and ministry of the district and denomination.

If your congregation's name is in **bold black type**, this indicates that we have received your self-allocation report for 2022. If the congregational name is in **bold red type**, this indicates that we have received giving from your congregation that matches the previous year allocation and we will need your 2022 report. If the congregational name is neither, it indicates that we need your 2022 report. This is true even if you give nothing to any Brethren related entity.