



# Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

**Media Release**

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## **Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church's Great Day of Service To Take Place This Saturday June 16**

**Hampton, VA** – This Saturday, June 16, from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., an estimated 1000 people will be supporting volunteer efforts around the City of Hampton as part of the Virginia Conference of The Virginia United Methodist Church's (VAUMC) Great Day of Service. The volunteer effort is part of the annual VAUMC event, being held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, June 14-17. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to volunteer in the community, pack relief kits to be shipped around the world, or attend workshop sessions related to social topics. The City of Hampton has hosted the Virginia Conference of The Virginia United Methodist Church for over 20 years.

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Community volunteer opportunities will be located at 10 different sites across the city, including cemeteries, parks, waterways, alleyways, and more.

According to Virginia Conference United Methodist's Church Director of Communications Madeline Pillow, "Bishop Sharma D. Lewis' vision for the conference is to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve. Methodist Church Founder John Wesley emphasized service to others and Bishop Lewis feels it is extremely important to find ways to be in service of the Hampton community while in town for the three-day event."

While the work is being done by VAUMC conference attendees, Hampton's Housing & Neighborhood Services Division has been assisting conference planners in connecting volunteers to neighborhood leaders and community service opportunities.

For the City of Hampton, not only is this an opportunity to connect volunteers with meaningful projects, it is an opportunity to practice coordinating city-wide volunteer efforts during future hurricane recovery events. Such events will require the city to ensure outside groups of volunteer organizations are support and directed to areas of impact.

For more information on the Great Day of Service, or to find out how you can be involved in future volunteer efforts, please contact Jonathan McBride, [jmcbride@hampton.gov](mailto:jmcbride@hampton.gov), or Anna Hammond, [anna.hammond@hampton.gov](mailto:anna.hammond@hampton.gov), with the Community Development Department at 757/727-6140.

The Virginia Conference of The Virginia United Methodist Church oversees almost 1,200 churches and 330,000 members in Virginia as part of The United Methodist

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Church denomination. The United Methodist Church is a global church with 12.3 million members with the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Founder John Wesley and the early Methodists placed primary emphasis on Christian living, on putting faith and love into action.

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.

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