2026-27 Infobook

Church St Campus



Our mission is to cultivate people who follow Jesus in the heart of Blacksburg and beyond.

BLACKSBURG
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"I was hungry and you gave me food to eat.
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink.
I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
– Jesus (Matthew 25:35)

Dear friends,

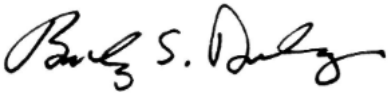
Over the past year of asking for "the ancient paths," we have begun to experience transformation—an enlivening of our church by the Holy Spirit as we have reclaimed our Methodist identity and Wesleyan ways. Having now named and claimed our Guiding Values of Vision—Radical Hospitality, Shared Community, Spiritual Vitality and Living Legacy—these guideposts help us turn the page to the next chapter of our life.

We begin this year with a singular focus on **Welcome**. Radical Hospitality will serve as the "tip of the spear" as we move towards this vision—behind which all the other values will follow. Over the course of this year-in-ministry, we will seek to create welcome spaces—tables of grace—where we are received, valued and transformed. Ultimately, we want to cultivate people who, in their daily lives, welcome *all* people as Christ, himself.

We will do this over the 2026-27 year in ministry in several ways. First, by deepening a culture of hospitality throughout each and every aspect of our church's life and ministry. Second, by seeking out and listening to marginalized voices. Third, by cultivating people who embrace their own strengths and grow more welcoming of people in their daily lives. And fourth, by planning and raising funds for facility upgrades and renovations which serve to deepen hospitality.

This book serves as a guide for you along the way. In addition to information about our goals, guiding values, and discipleship pathway, it includes ways to contact those in leadership. I hope that you will make use of this, as well as the weekly e-newsletter, and our BUMC app and website, to stay connected. May Christ's welcome of each of us embolden our own hospitality towards others!

Live alive,



Brad Dulaney
Lead Pastor

:

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Our Guiding Values of Vision

We are guided by four essential values that reflect our unique identity and lead us in building the future together. While our Purpose explains what we do, and our Pathway describes how we do it, our Vision guides where we go next, corporately.



RADICAL HOSPITALITY – We will deepen Christian hospitality in every corner of the church's life so that we are always prepared to meet Christ in the stranger. We will seek to do this by enhancing facilities, improving accessibility, creating welcoming spaces and practices in every aspect of our ministries, and encouraging engagement with each person we encounter.

SHARED COMMUNITY – We will embrace more people from a wider variety of households, family structures and ethnicities so that they find and help build the spiritual home they long for. We will seek to do this by equipping people to lead meaningful lives, enhancing accessibility and safety, offering varied worship options, expanding leadership training and support, and building intergenerational engagement.





SPIRITUAL VITALITY – We will fan the flames of living faith in peoples' souls so that the Holy Spirit might give breath to the body of Christ. We will seek to do this by encouraging spiritual formation, practice-centered discipleship, and self-care strategies that take shape through mentoring relationships, small groups, contemplative practices, and acts of service.

LIVING LEGACY – We will ground all our ministries in our living heritage so that our future honors the unique way of our United Methodist approach to living the gospel. We will seek to do this by celebrating our intergenerational congregation, telling the story of its historic impacts, and preparing for its 250th anniversary by improving our archives, communications, and facilities planning.





Our Pathway of Discipleship

COME as you are and see

The journey begins with an invitation to come, just as you are, and see what Jesus is doing in the church and in the world. (Our task is to call others to the life-changing pilgrimage of faith; this involves our ministries of communications, evangelism and outreach.)

CONNECT with God and the journey of faith

When you are left longing for more of Jesus, you return with a desire to grow your relationship with God and with others who follow Jesus. (Our task is to engage spiritual seekers such that they feel welcomed, taste life abundant, hunger for more, and are invited into the life of faith; this involves our ministries of hospitality, music and worship arts, and visitor follow-up.)

COMPANION with other apprentices of Jesus

Jesus invites you deeper into your journey with him. You apprentice yourself to others who follow Jesus, discover your gifts, go places that are challenging, and experience transformation by grace. (Our task is to cultivate a network of courageous spiritual friendships where the life of Jesus grows in each person;

this involves children and youth ministries, music and worship arts, as well as the adult discipleship ministry team.)

CO/MISSION as disciples who go to serve

Jesus sends you into the world to serve alongside others, bearing witness to the places where God is at work, and where the world is out of alignment with God's kingdom. (Our task is to challenge people to grow willing to cross boundaries with Jesus, and to develop a lifestyle of service through ministries of compassion and justice; this involves the SERVE ministry team, as well as children and youth ministries.)

Goals for 2026-27

During the 2026-27 year in ministry (through August 2027), the Church St staff and ministry teams will pursue the following goals, in support of our guiding values of Radical Hospitality, Shared Community, Spiritual Vitality, and Living Legacy.

1. **We will increase the percentage of first-time visitors who return as second/third time visitors.**
    - **Measure:** Currently 32%. We will aim for for 37%.
    - **Ministry Teams:** Hospitality and Worship Ministry Teams

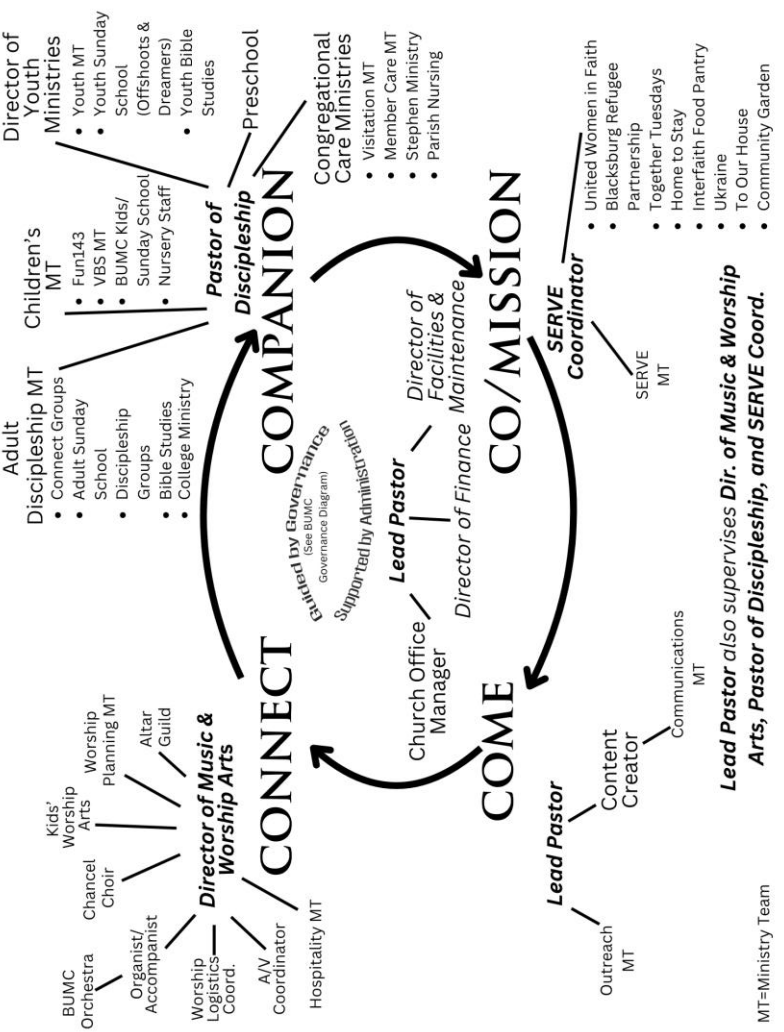
2. **We will have more church- and community-based engagements with members of the immigrant and other marginalized communities.**
    - **Measure:** No current statistics. Staff will track these anecdotally weekly through our ministry team structure.
    - **Ministry Teams:** All Ministry Teams

3. **Our people will extend more invitations to others in the community to gather at Table—whether a church or community-based table.**
    - **Measure:** A "Table" is any personal encounter or engagement through which a new relationship is formed or an existing relationship is strengthened. Entire church asked to share that

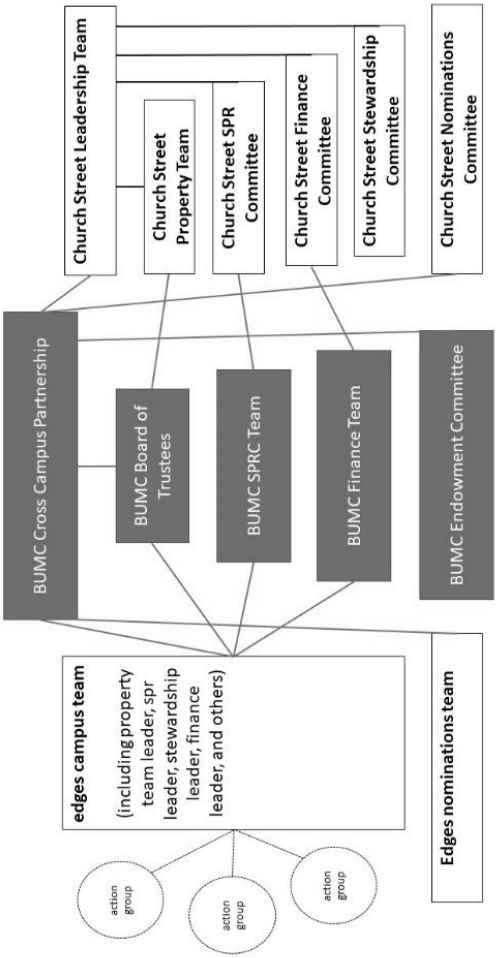
they have made any invitations they have made by posting a flag on a bulletin board in a central, visible location. Includes verbal, written or virtual invitations—regardless of the response. Any invitation to a church, home, or community event or space where neighbors come together in friendship. Staff will create this measure.

- **Ministry Teams:** All Ministry Teams

Church St Ministry Structure



BUMC Governance Structure



BUMC Leadership 2026-27

Parenthetical class years mean the person serves in this role until July 31 of said year.
TBA indicates the position will be filled at a later date.

BUMC Cross-Campus Partnership

- Lead pastor: Brad Dulaney
- edges campus pastor: **tba**
- Church St. lay leader: Lynn Everett (2027)
- edges lay leader: taylor petty
- Church St. finance chair: Dwight Shelton (2027)
- edges finance lead: harrison lapuasa
- Church St. SPR chair: Susan Sumner (2027)
- edges spr lead: joe trice
- Church St. stewardship chair**: John Byers (2029) or TBA (2029)**
- edges impact lead: **tba**
- Trustees chair: **Dave Nutter (2029)**
- Trustees vice chair: TBA
- Lay Member of Annual Conference (Church St.)
  and BUMC Cross-Campus Partnership Chair: Eric Kaufman
- lay member of annual conference (edges): joey ballard
- young adult member (age 18-35; edges): kira larkin
- Youth member (under age 18; Church St): **Sara Kaufman (2027)**

BUMC Board of Trustees

- Lead pastor: Brad Dulaney*
- *edges pastor: tba**
- Chair: **Dave Nutter (2029)**
- Vice chair: *to be elected from members*
- Church St. property team leader: **Keith Davis (2029)**
- edges property team leader**: shane larkin**
- Church St. general member: **Greg Miller (2028)**
- edges general member: beth o'connor
- Church St. general member: **MaryAnn Cass (2027)**

*clergy members are non-voting ex officio members

BUMC SPRC Team

- Church St. SPR chair: Susan Sumner (2027)
- *edges spr lead: joe trice*
- Lead pastor: Brad Dulaney
- *edges pastor: tba*
- Church St. lay leader: Lynn Everett(2027)
- *edges lay leader: taylor petty*
- Lay Member of Annual Conference (Church St.): Eric Kaufman
- *lay member of annual conference (edges): joey ballard*

BUMC Finance Team

- Lead pastor: Brad Dulaney
- edges pastor: tba
- Church St. finance chair: Dwight Shelton (2027)
- edges finance lead: harrison lapuasa
- Church St. SPRC Chair: Susan Sumner (2027)
- edges sprc lead: joe trice
- BUMC treasurer: Cyndy Beach (2027)
- BUMC assistant treasurer: Lee Cooper (2027)
- BUMC finance director (non-voting): **Marlin Reeves**
- Church St. Stewardship Chair: **John Byers (2029) or TBA (2029)**
- edges impact lead: tba

BUMC Endowment Committee†

- Officers (elected by and from Committee):
    - Chair: Laurie Coble (2028)
    - Vice-chair
    - Secretary
- Lead pastor: Brad Dulaney
- BUMC treasurer: Cyndy Beach (2027)
- Church St. Stewardship Chair: : **John Byers (2029) or TBA (2029)**
- edges impact lead: **tba**
- BUMC finance committee representative: Dwight Shelton (2027) [or designee]
- BUMC board of trustees representative: Dave Nutter (2029) *[or designee]*
- At-Large Member 1: **Dennis Duncan (2029**)
- At-Large Member 2: Mike Eggleston (2027)
- At-Large Member 3**: David Everett (2029)**
- At-Large Member 4: Laurie Coble (2028)

Child & Youth Protection Policy Committee

- Chairperson: Erica Coates (2027)
- Church St. Dir. of Children's Ministries: TBA
- *edges kids coordinator: ashley verberg*
- Preschool Director: Debbie McDowell
- Director of Youth Ministries: Christa Craighead
- Fun 143 Representative: tba
- *edges at-large member: kristen mcgilliard*
- Church St. at-large Member: Sharon Alley (2028)

Connectional Leadership

- Annual conference members:
    - Church St.: Eric Kaufman
    - *edges: joey ballard*
- District Conference Delegates Include:
    - Lay Leaders (2)
    - Cross-Campus Partnership Chair: Eric Kaufman
    - President of UWF Unit
    - Lay members of annual conference (2)
    - At-large district conference delegate (Church St.): Jennifer Cooper (2028)
    - *at-large district conference delegate (edges): joe trice*
- District Stewards
    - Church St.: Jennifer Cooper (2028)
    - *edges: josh mcgilliard*

Church Street Leadership 2026-27

Church St. Leadership Team

- Lead pastor: Brad Dulaney
- Church St. lay leader: Lynn Everett (2027)
- Church St. finance chair: Dwight Shelton (2027)
- Church St. property team leader: **Keith Davis (2029)**
- Church St. SPR chair: Susan Sumner (2027)
- Church St. stewardship chair: **John Byers (2029) or TBA (2029)**
- Church St. Annual Conference Member and BUMC Cross-Campus Partnership Chair: Eric Kaufman
- At-Large member 1: **Sarah Schuster (2029)**
- At-Large member 2: **MaryAnn Cass (2028)**
- At-Large member 3: Cindy Wood (2027)
- At-Large member 4: **TBA (2029)**

Church St. Property Team

- Church St. property team leader: **Keith Davis (2029)**
- at-large member 1: Steve Treser
- at-large member 2: Jackie Nutter
- at-large member 4: **Carolyn Pultz**

Church St. Nominations Team

- Lead pastor: Brad Dulaney
- Church St. lay leader: Lynn Everett
- At-large member 1: Charlie Sink (2028)
- At-large member 2: Dick Arnold (2028)
- At-large member 3: Dave Nutter (2028)
- At-large member 4: MaryAnn Cass (2027)

Church St. Finance Committee

- Church St. finance chair: Dwight Shelton (2027)
- Lead pastor: Brad Dulaney
- Church St. lay leader: Lynn Everett (2027)
- Church St. SPR chair: Susan Sumner (2027) [or designee]
- Church St. property team leader: Keith Davis (2026) [or designee]
- BUMC treasurer: Cyndy Beach (2026)
- BUMC finance director (non-voting): **Marlin Reeves**
- At-large member 1: Louise Ridenour (2027)
- At-large member 2: Laurie Coble (2028)

Church St. SPR Committee

- Church St. SPR chair: Susan Sumner (2027)
- Church St. lay leader: Lynn Everett (2027)
- Church St. Annual Conference Member: Eric Kaufman
- At-large member 1: John Byers (2026)
- At-large member 2: Katherine Treser (2027)
- At-large member 3: Matt Beeken (2028)

BUMP Board *(elected from the church to serve on the preschool board)*

- Ginger Cope (2026)
- Lynda Bailey (2028)
- April Peacock (2028)

Leadership Directory

Sharon Alley, alleysr@comcast.net

Dick Arnold, dick.arnold34@gmail.com

Lynda Bailey, lkbailey@vt.edu

Cyndy Beach, hokiecyndy@gmail.com

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Steve Treser, steven.treser@gmail.com

Davey Winyall, david.winyall@gmail.com

Cindy Wood, woodcm79@gmail.com

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540-230-5550

Christa Craighead, Director of Youth Ministry, youth@blacksburgumc.org
540-552-5424 ext. 6

Rev. Brad Dulaney, Lead Pastor, brad@blacksburgumc.org
540-552-5424 ext. 1 or 540-798-7922

Charlie Gray, Director of Facilities & Maintenance, 540-641-2475

Jo Koll, Office Manager, officeadmin@blacksburgumc.org
540-552-5424 ext. 0

Debbie McDowell, Preschool Director, preschool@blacksburgumc.org
540-552-5424 ext. 7

Ben Slaughter, Music Ministry Associate and Accompanist, bslaugh8@vt.edu

Rev. Penny Rasnake, Pastor of Congregational Care,
penny@blacksburgumc.org, 540-552-5424 ext. 2 or703 864 3630

Marlin Reeves, Director of Finance, finance@blacksburgumc.org
540-552-5424 ext. 8

Tim Wise, Director of Worship Arts , tim@blacksburgumc.org
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The Church Street Campus of Blacksburg UMC

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