

The Northern Virginia District Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church
Resolution to Change District Organizational Plan to Simplified Accountable
Governance Structure

WHEREAS, the Alexandria and Arlington Districts and the Bi-District's Board of Missions have been consolidated under the provisions of ¶659.4, ¶2518.2, and ¶2518.3 of the 2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (Hereafter, the "Discipline"), and assets held in trust by the districts are now held in trust by the newly created and incorporated The Northern Virginia District (NVD) of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, The Northern Virginia District Board of Directors (Trustees) of the newly created and incorporated NVD of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, are serving effective as of July 9, 2022; and

WHEREAS, ¶661 of the Discipline allows alternative models of district governance; and

WHEREAS, the simplified, accountable leadership structure is utilized as an alternative model throughout the denomination; and

WHEREAS, district leadership of the newly created NVD prayerfully began to explore the simplified, accountable structure for district governance; and

WHEREAS, the lay and clergy members of the district have provided feedback concerning a potential change in governance structure on multiple occasions; and

WHEREAS, the newly created district was motivated to convert for reasons of efficiency, alignment with our mission and vision, accountability, and missional focus; and

WHEREAS, the NVD Leadership and District Superintendent, after months of discernment, have crafted an alternative model of district governance under the provisions of ¶661 of the Discipline which will support the district's mission of developing, administering, and evaluating the missional life, advocacy needs, and ministries of the United Methodist Church in and through the district; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Northern Virginia District Conference will serve in accordance with ¶1658-659 of the Discipline. The District Conference will be composed of the lay members of the Virginia Annual Conference which hold their professing membership in the churches of the NVD, along with the clergy appointed to charges or ministries within the bounds of the NVD, and retired ordained ministers and clergy in extension ministry who elect to place their charge conference membership in charges within the bounds of the NVD.

2. The Northern Virginia District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM) is amenable to the Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) and serves in accordance with ¶1666 of the Discipline. Members are nominated annually by the District Superintendent in consultation with the BOM chair or BOM executive committee and approved by the annual conference.

3. The Northern Virginia District Administrative Team (DAT), one of the three structural teams of the NVD, shall serve as the district conference's administrative executive committee, with the duties and responsibilities of the District Committee on Superintendency (¶1666 of the Discipline), District Trustees, District Finance, Personnel Committee, Endowment/trust Committee, Cemetery Committee and Disaster Relief Committee. The DAT will administer the district budget, assets and real property, and personnel support.

a. The DAT will abide with existing financial, child protection, building use, and personnel policies and principles. The DAT is empowered to amend these policies and principles.

b. The DAT shall be composed of the following:

i. Six (6) elected members with representation (¶1669.1, ¶12518) by laywomen, laymen, and clergy who serve as the District Trustees (¶12518) and fulfill the role of the District's legal Board of Directors, if the District is incorporated.

ii. Two (2) At-Large Members ¶1669.1.

iii. Two (2) members appointed by the District Superintendent.

iv. District Lay Leader ¶1660.

v. District Superintendent.

vi. Advisory members may be added as needed (§669.2).

vii. The bishop of the area, or his or her authorized representative, shall be an ex officio member of said committee (§669.2) in its role as the Superintendency Committee.

c. On January 1, 2023 the authority, functions, and various responsibilities of the District Committee on District Superintendency (§666 of the Discipline), District Trustees, District Finance, Personnel Committee, Endowment/trust Committee, Cemetery Committee and Disaster Relief Committee will be combined into the District Administrative Team, which will be elected annually by the District Conference and responsible for stewarding the resources of the NVD.

d. On January 1, 2023 the District Trustees will be composed of six identified members of the DAT and will serve in accordance with §2518 of the Discipline.

e. While the entire DAT will have voice and overall governing responsibility as the District Conference's governing board, only the six District Trustees will serve in the fiduciary capacity as the District's legal Board of Directors. The chair of the District Board of Trustees will be elected from among the voting Trustee members of the DAT in the first board meeting of each year, in accordance with the Discipline. Existing elected members of the District Trustees will conclude their term of service on December 31, 2022 as the District transitions to the new organizational plan.

4. The Northern Virginia District Strategic Team (DST) shall be one of the three structural teams of the NVD, and will also convene the Northern Virginia District Board of Church Location and Building(DBCLB) as outlined in §2519-2524 of the Discipline.

a. Membership of the DST shall be composed of 10-12 people, including:

i. District Superintendent, who will chair this team

ii. District Lay Leader

iii. Chair of the DCLB

iii. Others as nominated by the Leadership Development Team (LDT) and elected by the District Conference serving in 3 year classes.

a. The DBCLB shall partner with the District Superintendent and the full DST to implement a strategy for the mission fields of the district, including the consideration of building proposals, exploring the repurposing, closing and realignment of churches, and providing strategic consideration of grant-making opportunities within the district, as provided by the DAT and/or conference ministries. The DBCLB will report their work to the DST for alignment of strategic goals for the District.

b. Membership of the DCLB sub-team of the DST shall be composed of

i. Twelve to fifteen (12-15) members nominated by the district superintendent in consultation with the District Leadership Team and elected annually by the Annual Conference for three-year terms and divided into classes with one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy ¶2518.2, ¶2519.

ii. District Superintendent

iii. District Lay Leader (optional, ex officio) ¶660.8

5. The NV District Leadership Development Team (LDT), one of the three structural teams of the NVD, encompasses the dCOM, Lay Servant Ministry, Nominations, UMM and UWF.

a. The Northern Virginia District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM) is amenable to the Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) and serves in accordance with ¶666 of the Discipline. Members are nominated annually by the District Superintendent in consultation with the BOM chair or BOM executive committee and approved by the annual conference.

b. Additional members of the LDT will be nominated by the LDT and elected at the NV District Conference.

c. Except for the DCOM and DCLB membership, which have other processes for nominations and Annual Conference ratifications, the LDT will serve as the source of nominations for the NVD.

d. The NVD, through its nominations, will seek to include and empower a diversity of voices and perspectives in all these teams, especially in relationship to age,

race, culture, national origin, genders and orientations. In accordance with the requirements of the Book of Discipline (2016), identifications have been made as to male and female representation; however the District wishes to clearly invite and welcome any nonbinary folx who are interested in serving at the District.

6. In addition to the administrative and governance structure outlined in this resolution and composed of board and committee members elected at the district or conference level, the NVD may include various mission and ministry committees, teams, councils, and related organizations as needed which support the mission of the NVD and the Virginia Conference. Unless otherwise indicated by the Discipline and/or Conference or District policies or standing rules, these various bodies are amenable to the DAT in administrative matters, and will relate to the District Superintendent, District Lay Leader, or designee.

7. The District Board of Trustees is directed immediately to make appropriate amendments to the district's bylaws to reflect the new plan for organization and submit an update to the Virginia Secretary of State's office in a manner defined by state law for nonprofit corporations.

ADOPTED by The Northern Virginia District Conference, DATE _____.
