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*Equipping local churches for ministry and providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church*

April 22, 2021

Churches of the Virginia Annual Conference,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who unifies us and calls us to be one in the Holy Spirit. I am writing this letter to you today, to invite every church in the Virginia Conference to participate in this year's Annual Conference mission project called, "Community Cans & Kits."

Most congregations are aware of the "Kits for Conference" and "Cans 4 Conference" initiatives that have invited members to bring UMCOR kits and canned food to drop off during Annual Conference. This year we have been informed that to deliver the amount of kits we normally collect to Mission Central in Pennsylvania, they would be overwhelmed. Additionally, since we will not be meeting in one central location this year, we felt that it would be good for this year to offer a mission opportunity for all churches in the Virginia Conference to show our strength in numbers, by uniting as one, and also to engage in something we are somewhat familiar with, while adding a twist.

This year we are inviting each church to host a canned food drive (collection), as well as participate in creating hygiene kits and school kits. The cans and the kits will be dropped off at a designated site or sites on each district. The drop off times will be between 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., on June 19, 2021. All of the cans and kits collected will stay locally and help support local ministry partners in your area.

Each district has a Mission Coordinator who will be heading a planning team. You can find out more information for you district by going to, [www.vaumc.org/kits](http://www.vaumc.org/kits) for the latest information as to who you District Mission Coordinator, the determined items for each kit being asked for in your district, and the drop off locations closest to you.

Remember, when we are "United as One," and the more churches that participate, the greater impact in our communities we can have!

In Christ's service,

Rev. Brian Posey  
Community Cans & Kits, Team Leader

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