All God’s people in all places,  
and in all times,  
are called to love and to serve.  
Ministry of the Laity

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 20-21 As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”
1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 14, 20-21 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Because lay ministry has been instrumental in the spread of the gospel from the earliest times and especially in the establishment of The United Methodist Church, and because God, through baptism and confirmation, continues to call each believer into ministry, the Virginia Conference Board of Laity lifts up the crucial importance of lay ministry and urges lay people to take this call seriously, committing themselves to grow in faith, mission, witness and ministry. We thank our pastors who commit themselves to leading lay people to discover and develop their ministries and who partner with them in this great adventure of faith and discipleship.

It is our continuing prayer at this time for our church and its people called United Methodists that our God will most assuredly lead us forward in His unfailing way. May we the Virginia Conference laity in partnership with all our clergy, District Superintendents, and Bishops be truly faithful to each other with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ as we move forward together.

This is a critical time on our Christian walk together to stop and listen to our God and recognize, as Paul said, “there are many members, yet one body.” If nothing else we the laity over the past six years in the Virginia Conference have been taught how to be in prayerful conversation, Christian conversation, transparent conversation. May we, the laity, all the laity now more than ever continue forward.

May Christ be with us,

The Virginia Board of Laity  
Warren R. Harper, Conference Lay Leader