

Did you know that 100% of the Christmas offering that your congregation receives on December 17th and 24th comes back to the Region of Virginia? Perhaps that may sound strange, for the Region to be a recipient of this Special Day offering, but in fact, what better way can we live into our commitment to one another, to live together as the Body of Christ? From Christ's love for us, and our love for one another, we can strengthen all the marvelous ministries that happen around the year in Virginia, by participating prayerfully and generously in this year's Christmas offering.

What does Regional Ministry do that is valuable to us?

- + We equip leaders for service in all types of ministries. In particular, we work with our commissioned ministers in order to provide education they need as they serve local congregations. We also equip our youth to be leaders by providing camp counselor training. The women regularly have leadership events as they continue to develop their skills and abilities to best serve Christ and the church.
- + We encourage congregations in various ways, sometimes to provide a listening ear as they ponder their future, other times to begin working with a search and call committee as they search for a new minister. The Region is here to serve the congregations, whether it might be helping to resolve a conflict or to celebrate the installation of a new minister, helping to get a new church started or help an older congregation transform themselves.
- + We build relationships among many: between congregations, between clergy colleagues, between lay leaders, between campers at Craig Springs, between the larger church and the local congregation. We help to build bridges and connect with others we may not have had opportunity to connect with previously.

Our world has been through a great deal of pain and suffering this year, and we want to continue spreading Christ's love to the many that so desperately need to be reminded that there is hope, there is light, that we are there for them. You can help be a part of something greater than yourself when you prayerfully and generously give to this year's Christmas Offering.