



# **Seed, Scattered & Sown**

*Reaching Beyond This Generation*

## **CASE STATEMENT**

Virgina District & Camp Bethel  
Church of the Brethren  
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## LOGO INTERPRETATION

The logo for the “SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN: Reaching Beyond this Generation,” designed by Michael Craighead of Access Inc., was inspired by his deep interest in the meanings behind sacred geometric symbolism, especially in the Judeo-Christian tradition. The circle acts as a base behind all geometric shapes and represents an infinite amount of mathematical reasoning within the secular world and symbolism within the Christian church. The circle, then, is very fitting, for it is a void and contains all.

The logo began as what may look like just a bunch of circles. The position, however, of each in relation to another, represents the process of life in the way that was taught through the parables of Jesus Christ. Even the process of a seed sprouting into a flower has a physical and spiritual correlation that is represented in nature in simple geometric relationships. In Matthew 13, after telling the parable of the sower, Jesus’ disciples asked why he spoke in parables. Jesus replied:

*“To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.” (Matthew 13:11-13)*

By speaking in parables, Jesus was able to plant seeds of understanding. This logo embodies the ways in which Jesus taught by illustrating layers of meaning for those with eyes to see. The logo was so designed to be simple and effective in delivering imagery of how Jesus spread his love.

The inner shape which includes six interlocking circles is known as “the seed of life.” Within this there is the seed, the sprout, the flower or the fruit and a representation of the parable. Just as the parable of the sower speaks of life and what gives life, this logo also speaks of the many delicate seeds sown with hope.

## **“SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN: Reaching Beyond this Generation” OUR MISSION RESOURCING CAMPAIGN FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

*And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

- Matthew 13:3-8. NRSV

**“SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN: Reaching Beyond this Generation”** describes the goals of our mission resourcing campaign. We endeavor to develop resources to fulfill Virlina District’s commitment to ministry with our children, youth and young adults; to initiate and continue our new church development and assistance to our smaller, struggling congregations; to encourage development of set-apart ministerial leadership and to provide necessary enhancements to fulfill Camp Bethel’s future potential. This statement outlines the ministries that will benefit from this effort. While we are grateful for past accomplishments, we recognize the crucial importance of envisioning and empowering forward progress in our mission.

### **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS CAMPAIGN?**

Most recently originating in the merger of the First and Southern Districts of Virginia in 1971, the Virlina District has roots in the original First District of Virginia organized in 1866. Virlina District is recognized as a leader in New Church Development and multi-cultural outreach in the Church of the Brethren. Twelve new fellowships have been recognized since 1981. Coupled with the tremendous Outdoor Ministries of Camp Bethel, a pacesetter since 1927, we are poised to reach beyond this generation by developing leaders, ministries, and congregations to meet the needs of the changing and complex world of the twenty-first century.

We are blessed to have the privilege and opportunity to initiate new and exciting ministries in the years to come! Leaders of the district are proactive in calling forth new leadership undergirded by strong formation as well as meeting the needs and challenges of our smaller congregations.

The Camp Bethel staff members are enthusiastic about providing greater accessibility within the camp by widening roads and boosting the ministry of hospitality through provision of a Recreational Vehicle Camping Area. These additions will enhance opportunities for lives to be touched and spiritually transformed.

## OUR THEME

**“SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN: Reaching Beyond this Generation”** is the theme of our mission resourcing campaign. Based upon the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13: 3-9, 18-23) and with allusion to the well-known hymn, “Seed, scattered and sown” (Dan Feiten, *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, 1992, #454), the theme reflects the broadcasting of God’s grace and mercy to all persons. Some seeds do not sprout, some wither and die, and some produce many times their numbers. To not sow, from fear of failure, is certain to deny success. Faithfulness demands that we persist in the work of sowing, whether the context is favorable or unfavorable. Our efforts are a prayer that the Great Sower, who is God, will use us as divine instruments.

Our ministry and mission must remain relevant, vibrant and strong. Enhancements and improvements allow us to effectively continue the work of Jesus reaching beyond our own generation into the future. By so doing we will be prepared to adequately and aggressively respond to the needs of a complex and changing world. We are compelled to scatter and sow seeds of God’s grace for the spiritual transformation of ourselves and those around us, as well as our society and world.

Success requires strong commitment of time, talent and treasure from those of us who are members and friends of Virlina District and Camp Bethel. Funds that we share through **“SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN: Reaching Beyond this Generation”** will provide resources necessary to extend the ministry of our camp and district in new, exciting and innovative ways.

**“SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN: Reaching Beyond this Generation”** seeks to develop a sense of unity and participation in our common mission as the Virlina District. Ministries of new church development, nurturing of new leadership, children and youth and young adult work, as well as the outdoor ministries provided by Camp Bethel, relies upon the commitment generated by this effort.

Our LORD calls us to ministries of nurture, renewal and outreach! **“SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN: Reaching Beyond this Generation”** affirms the strides that we as a district have made in preparing for future ministry. Faithfulness to Christ calls us to rise to this new challenge of commitment to the church and bear witness to the Good News to those around us.

### VICTORY AND CHALLENGE GOALS

\$ 750,000	VICTORY GOAL
\$ 1,000,000	CHALLENGE GOAL

The VICTORY GOAL was approved by the 2011 Virlina District Conference. Achieving this goal will provide the minimal resources needed to meet the needs and commitments of both Virlina District and Camp Bethel as outlined below.

The CHALLENGE GOAL was developed by the Mission Resourcing Committee and

approved by the Virilina District Board in 2014. This goal illustrates the opportunities for even greater strides that can be taken for new church development, leadership development, college student ministry and outdoor ministry.

### **HOW WILL THE FUNDS BE USED?**

All funds received shall be used for the purposes outlined in this statement. If circumstances change regarding any particular item, the guidance, counsel and approval of the Virilina District board shall be sought prior to any reallocation. By dispensing with the services of a consultant, campaign expenses have been limited to \$10,000 or less.

### **A PRELIMINARY ALLOCATION FOR FUNDS RECEIVED FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE DISTRICT**

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>VICTORY GOAL</u></b>	<b><u>CHALLENGE GOAL</u></b>
1. Children, Youth and Young Adult	\$ 72,000	\$ 72,000

Among the most precious possessions of the church are our children, youth and young adults. Since 2005 the Virilina District has employed a Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to coordinate our ministry in this area and to serve as a resource for congregations seeking youth leadership. We believe that we can develop a greater ministry in this area, particularly with children, junior youth and young adults, by expanding the current position beyond the current ten-hours per week or adding one or more positions.

2. Leadership Development	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
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Leadership Development funds will be allocated to the Calling the Called process for 2016. Five previous efforts in 1996, 1999, 2002, 2009 and 2012 resulted in a number of persons responding to God's call for set-apart ministry. Many congregations in our district and some in others have benefitted from the leadership of pastors and ministers inspired by this process.

3. Smaller Congregations	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000
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Resources administered by the Smaller Membership Congregational Committee include building grants of \$10,000 and employing a summer missionary to smaller congregations for two years at a total of \$6,000. During past years we have been able to assist all but four of our congregations to develop indoor restroom facilities and other building renovations. Summer missionaries have brought enthusiastic ministries to the smaller congregations where they have served while being developed as leaders. Several persons now are providing pastoral leadership in our congregations who have previously served as summer missionaries to smaller congregations.

4. New Church Development	\$ 274,000	\$ 399,000
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During the past twenty years we have successfully planted congregations in Concord

and Durham, N.C., and in the Smith Mountain Lake area of Virginia. We currently have Hispanic fellowships in Willis (Floyd County) and in Roanoke, VA, as well as the Lake Side Church near Moneta, VA. Our district has numerous opportunities for the development of new fellowships to reach new persons with Brethren understandings of the gospel, and to provide welcoming spiritual homes for newcomers in our increasingly multi-cultural area.

Resources received for New Church Development will be used for the following purposes: 1) initiation of the Iglesia del Buen Pastor (translated: Church of the Good Shepherd) at Blacksburg, Virginia (\$80,000), 2) continuing support of Iglesia Cristiana Renacer in Roanoke, Virginia (\$82,000), and Iglesia Cristiana Renacer in Willis, Virginia (\$112,000). If the Challenge Goal is reached, an additional \$125,000 would be allocated for a ministry to college students at Virginia Tech and Radford University, as well as other New Church Development Committee initiatives that become apparent in coming years.

### **FOR CAMP BETHEL**

At the 2007 Virlina District Conference, the Conference Delegates approved and adopted the Master Site Plan for Camp Bethel ("Recommendations for long-range land use and development of the Camp Bethel property"). This plan was the result of years of study and planning by Camp Bethel's Master Planning Committee (2004-2007), whose work grew out of the recommendations of the Camp Bethel Visioning Committee (1995-1998). Since 2007, Camp Bethel has implemented several "Phase One" first steps of the Master Site Plan as budget and gifts would allow. In 2015, the Outdoor Ministries Committee will update, revise and renew the Master Site Plan to reflect completed projects and new information gathered since 2007. The current Master Site Plan can be accessed online at [http://www.campbethelvirginia.org/Master Site Plan Document.pdf](http://www.campbethelvirginia.org/Master_Site_Plan_Document.pdf).

**"SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN: Reaching Beyond this Generation"** will fund the next Phase One goals of the Master Site Plan which are the logical next steps toward fulfilling Camp Bethel's future potential and lay the groundwork for future project phases. Phase One projects will benefit the camp without creating the need for additional full-time staff. Construction and renovation projects will be focused on creating revenue-generating enhancements such as increasing the use of current facilities and increasing our guest, camper and R.V. capacities.

During planning, before any one specific area's development was determined, any impact on surrounding areas, the property as a whole, and the functions and programs therein were carefully considered. The Outdoor Ministries Committee (OMC) of the Virlina District Board met on August 23, 2014 and November 6, 2014 and prioritized items for the **"SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN: Reaching Beyond this Generation"** campaign as follows:

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>VICTORY GOAL</u></b>	<b><u>CHALLENGE GOAL</u></b>
1. Road Improvement Plan	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000

Camp Bethel's Master Site Plan includes a logical Road Improvement Plan to provide

two-way and two-lane traffic from the stone gate entrance to the Ark Parking Lot and to the eventual R.V. Village site (currently the wooded area on the left of the road as you travel past the Cave Shelter towards the Maintenance yard), and from the Ark to Forest Lodge. The speed limit will remain 5 m.p.h. and safety signs and pedestrian crosswalks will be added. This plan contains vehicle ingress and egress at the main camp entrance, and does not disturb the central core of camp by the Spring Pond.

This Road Improvement Plan includes four stream crossings, which creates the bulk of the expense. This plan also includes reconfiguring and lining the existing Ark Parking Lot for a more efficient layout. The OMC has secured a detailed project plan for this work, a competitive bid for actual construction, and approval from Botetourt County, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

2. R.V. Village Camping Area	\$	200,000	\$	200,000
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*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

- Colossians 3:12-14

R.V. Campers are known for their ability to establish instant community within their camping areas. "Home away from home" takes on an all new meaning. Neighbors are met and welcomed. Tools, plugs, cords, hoses, life-changing stories, and jokes are shared as campers work together to make the most of their re-creating time. These people know about Sabbath and Togetherness. No wonder so many Brethren are R.V. Campers: "together in perfect unity."

The R.V. Village will be a new collection of at least 15 new recreational campsites planned for the forest area beside the Cave Trail Field. Each campsite will have modern electric, water and sewage adapters, a raised established "pad," and a fire-ring, grill and picnic area with table and other amenities. The Road Improvement Plan will allow these campsites to be open and available through the winter months. Based on existing topography, some sites would be "back-in" and some sites would be "pull-through," each spaced appropriately to provide a balance of privacy and opportunities for community. Construction of campsites will preserve as many existing trees as possible to maintain a shady, forested camping area.

In 2014, the OMC secured approval for the R.V. Village through a special exceptions permit from the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors. During summer camps, the general public will not be on site, but summer volunteers could make use of the R.V. Village. From August through May, potential R.V. campers would have to call ahead and reserve a campsite. Campsites for R.V. Village guests must be reserved in advance through Camp Bethel's Guest Services Coordinator. Water supply needs have already been taken care of with the construction of camp's Water Treatment Facility in 2008.

3. First 2 New Cottages in the "Unity Village"      \$      0                      \$      73,000

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*  
- Ephesians 4:3

This scripture, one of Alexander Mack's favorite scripture verses, provides the inspiration and the name for our expanded residential camp facilities, our "Unity Village."

\$73,000 in combination with an existing \$25,000 in Anonymous Memorial Escrow for purpose of new cottages will allow us to build the first two new cottages, one new bathhouse, and one program shelter in the "Unity Village." The Unity Village cottages will enable us to expand our own summer camp ministries to more children and youth, and will increase capacity for other guest groups and families.

The Master Site Plan recommends the eventual building of 12 new cabin/cottage units organized into two villages of six cabin units each. The arrangement of the cabins will make programming possible that is congruent with the small group camping philosophy (one girls' cabin near one boys' cabin) AND traditional retreat-style camping philosophy (girls' cabins on one side, boys' cabins on other side). Each village of six cabins would include one common program shelter and one new toilet/washhouse.

The Unity Village will be tucked into the woods along the edge of the open "Right Field" south of the Deer Field Center, not too far away from the Core/Main Camp, but not too close. This way, the Unity Village has the feeling of its own campus plus the ability to tap into current camp infrastructure (water, sewer, electric) and facilities (Gym, Pool, Ark Dining Hall, etc). Hiking trails will connect the new cabin villages to the Deer Field Center and other areas of the property, and a small parking area will be situated near the Unity Village for access of fall, winter and spring guest groups.

4. Ark Dining Hall Entrance Enclosure      \$      0                      \$      50,000

The present entrance into the Ark Dining and Conference Hall from the parking area needs to be expanded and enclosed. This would allow for a cloak room, expanded and renovated restrooms, a gathering area, and expanded storage. The Ark Entrance enclosure would complement the existing architectural design and would provide a more attractive and welcoming appearance to this key facility. In addition, the existing Ark Parking Lot would be reconfigured and relined.

5. Walking/Hiking/Biking Trails in the      \$      0                      \$      2,000  
"Wildlife Refuge Area"

Much of the western and southwestern portions of the camp property are designated by the camp's Master Site Plan as a Wildlife Refuge. The Wildlife Refuge Area is approximately 181 acres of predominantly wooded and rugged terrain. The boundary line for this area is the topographic line for elevation – around 1,360 feet. The boundary elevation line drops into and across the sensitive lowlands encompassing the four tributaries of Wilson Creek that are on

our property.

A series of well-marked trails will be established through this area. Where feasible, small clearings will be maintained to provide hikers and bikers the opportunity to gather and observe wildlife. Camouflaged bird and wildlife observation shelters can be installed. Trails will wind around and up the slopes to points of interest including two high points atop ridges where hikers and bikers can experience the dramatic views.

Walking and hiking trails will include easy and challenging options. Biking trails will also include varied levels of difficulty, from easy comfort biking to technical mountain biking. Trails may connect to the National Forest Roads above camp which lead to Horseshoe Bend, Black Horse Gap, the Appalachian Trail (hiking only), the Glenwood District Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

### SUMMARY OF ALLOCATION

	<u>VICTORY GOAL</u>	<u>CHALLENGE GOAL</u>
<b>FOR THE DISTRICT</b>		
1. Children, Youth and Young Adult	\$ 72,000	\$ 72,000
2. Leadership Development	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
3. Smaller Congregations	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000
4. New Church Development	\$ 274,000	\$ 399,000
<b>FOR CAMP BETHEL</b>		
1. Road Improvement Plan	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000
2. R.V. Village Camping Area	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
3. First 2 New Cottages in the "Unity Village"	\$ 0	\$ 73,000
4. Ark Dining Hall Entrance Enclosure	\$ 0	\$ 50,000
5. Walking/Hiking/Biking Trails in the "Wildlife Refuge Area"	\$ 0	\$ 2,000

### THE SOURCE OF FUNDS

Over eighty percent (80%) of all money contributed to churches and charitable causes in the United States comes from individuals. The people who are the most enthusiastic about the various ministries offered by their congregation are the same ones who are most likely to be supportive of it with their time, talents and money. We believe that the members and friends of the Virginia District of the Church of the Brethren are committed to its mission and are challenged by faith in Christ to respond sacrificially to His call.

Funds will be sought from four basic sources. As we participate in this project together, the emphasis will be on ***equal sacrifice, not equal gifts***. It is anticipated that these gifts will come from current income and from accumulated assets. As we share together, let us pray about our role in “**SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN: Reaching Beyond this Generation**” together.

### **1. DISTRICT AND CAMP LEADERSHIP**

Effective leadership on the part of those who are guiding the policies and procedures of the District and Camp Bethel can be demonstrated not only in the enormous amount of time and talent given to these ministries, but also through financial support. It is anticipated that the District Board and the Outdoor Ministries Committee will establish realistic and achievable personal goals to demonstrate their support, commitment, and leadership.

### **2. LEAD GIFTS**

Up to one half of the funds will be sought from the Lead Gift category. There are those who have been especially blessed with financial resources. It is to these people that the Lead Gift Committee will look for the majority of the larger gifts. When there is strong and generous leadership initially from the Lead Gift group of donors, the remainder of the constituency and friends will be encouraged and inspired to also respond generously.

### **3. CONGREGATIONS**

Most of the remaining balance of the funds will be received from other members and friends of the District congregations. Congregations will have a variety of options from which to choose for positively responding to this effort. These gifts, while understandably not as large as some in the Lead Gift category, will nevertheless be just as valuable for the success of the project. God will bless us for our faithfulness and participation. Again, the emphasis is on equal sacrifice, not equal gifts

### **4. OTHER SUPPORTERS OF CAMP AND DISTRICT**

The ministries of Camp Bethel and the Virlina District will continue to reach beyond the Church of the Brethren to our community, our state and beyond. We excitedly invite all supportive individuals, families and groups to "Reach Beyond this Generation" with gifts and commitments.

## **THE PROCEDURE**

Financial commitments for “**SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN: Reaching Beyond this Generation**” will be solicited for the four-year commitment period from January 2015 through December 2018. Since gifts may be made in 2019, contributions may be spread over **five tax years**. It is important to understand that these committed funds are ***over and above*** funds already being contributed from individuals and congregations to underwrite the ongoing operating and program costs of the Virlina District and Camp Bethel.

All gifts will be gratefully accepted and personally acknowledged. All individuals, including children and youth will be urged to consider making a commitment. Gifts may be in the form of cash, stocks, bonds, wills, annuities, or other appreciated assets.

Commitments, the lifeblood of any stewardship effort, can be adjusted upward or downward by the donor, if necessary, at any point within the payment period. In virtually all capital fund campaigns the total gifts received exceed the actual commitments made.

The confidentiality of each and every gift shall be closely guarded. Payment reminders and timely reports will be provided throughout the four-year period for all who commit four-year payments. These reminders can be issued annually, semi-annually, or quarterly to each donor based on the payment schedule requested.

All funds will be restricted to the “**SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN: Reaching Beyond this Generation**” mission projects as previously noted.

## **CONCLUSION**

Over the course of Virgina District’s service to Christ and congregations in a three-state area, we have been blessed with leaders with the ability to make decisions enabling the spreading of the Gospel as understood by the Brethren. The launch of “**SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN: Reaching Beyond this Generation**” is consistent with that tradition. As a result, Virgina District will continue to be in the forefront of mission. It is a responsibility that is now ours, just as those who preceded us took up the challenge facing them. With these enhancements and improvements, we will increase the scope of ministries offered in our district, enrich our fellowship, provide for more people to experience the presence of God, and expand our witness for Jesus Christ. Let us commit in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to provide for one another and for generations who are yet to come.

## APPENDIX

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### A. Common Terms

1. Victory Goal: The Victory Goal is the minimum amount to be raised; approved by the 2011 Virlina District Conference.
2. Challenge Goal: The Challenge Goal reaches beyond the Victory Goal by \$250,000; approved in a meeting of the Virlina District Board in 2014.
3. Virlina District: The Virlina District Church of the Brethren is one of twenty-three districts of the denomination and encompasses 92 congregations, fellowships, projects and meeting points with 10,769 members within Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina (hence, "Vir-lina"). Brethren are noted for an emphasis on peace-making, reconciliation and service. Related denominations, formed through mission work, are found in Nigeria, India and other nations. Brethren began in Germany as a movement advocating adult profession of faith and baptism by immersion, separation of church and state, and an earnest desire to live out the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. (Taken from [www.campbethelvirginia.org](http://www.campbethelvirginia.org).) Visit its website at [www.virlina.org](http://www.virlina.org).
4. Camp Bethel: Camp Bethel is the outdoor ministry of the Virlina District Church of the Brethren that seeks to foster and build relationships with the Creator, with others, and with creation. This ministry is realized through two efforts, our Christian camping program and the availability of our facilities to all people. The summer camping program includes activity-and-Bible-based Christian education and encourages growth in interpersonal relationships, faith in God, and living like Jesus. We adhere to a small group camping philosophy emphasizing the nurture and growth of an intentional Christian community. Our programs offer progression into more adventure-based experiences for older campers, encouraging campers, staff and volunteers to return year after year. (Taken from [www.campbethelvirginia.org](http://www.campbethelvirginia.org).)



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