

Diocese of Virginia, Culpeper Region: 2025 Report

The Culpeper Region of the Diocese of Virginia contains 10 churches in the counties of Culpeper (4), Fauquier (4), Madison (1), and Rappahannock (1).

In 2025, Culpeper Region sponsored a "Small Church Conference" organized by the Rev. Vinnie Lainson, held at St. Stephen's Church, Culpeper on May 22, 2025. More than 25 people attended, representing small churches across the diocese.

The grand question for the conference was: "What do you want?" The goal was to listen carefully to each other, to create greater understanding of our individual and corporate reality, and to find ways we can help each other as we work on aging historic buildings, irregular attendance, and community support.

Further questions were explored in small groups

What does it mean to be a "successful small parish?"

What is working well?

Where do you see change?

What fears do you think your parish has?"

A question raised within the conference was "Is the Diocese facing problems they cannot figure out because they (we) are not asking the right people?" And, finally: "What problems (of "small churches") are we trying to fix?"

The Culpeper Region hosted a weekend retreat at Shrine Mont July 11-13. Five of the region churches were represented. The theme for the retreat was "The Peace of God Which Surpasses Understanding" with prayer services, lots of self-generated music, thoughtful presentations, crafts, and time for gathering together to talk on the porches, hikes, and enjoy the pool. It is wonderful to experience a way in which our church members can come together to pray, sing, "work" - and encourage each other!

Nearing the end of the year, the Culpeper Region has \$5339.00 in assets. In 2025, the region granted \$3,000.00 to Shrine Mont for their 100th anniversary, and \$5,000.00 to Piedmont Church, Madison, VA to assist with required structural upgrades after a catastrophic storm.