In December of 2018 – a new church plant called *Mission Charlottesville* began worshiping at Burley Middle School, 901 Rose Hill Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

*Mission Charlottesville* is:
- 4.1 miles from Aldersgate UMC
- 1.7 miles from Wesley Memorial UMC
- 1.5 Miles from Hinton Avenue UMC
- 0.8 miles from First UMC

This new church plant relies on the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA) for connectionalism and is financially supported through and by the Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia (EFVA).

The photos and other information that are provided in this report will outline the direct connection between the WCA and the EFVA and also convey why their support of *Mission Charlottesville* should be of great concern to the Virginia Annual Conference.

This information was gathered through publicly available information as found through social media, websites, and other internet searches.

All screenshots are documented with appropriate links and the time they were taken/accessed.
On November 28, 2018 the sponsored post (pictured below) appeared on the Facebook feed of the Associate Pastor at First UMC, Charlottesville.

https://www.facebook.com/MissionCharlottesville/
11/28/2018 - Mobile Phone Screenshot
More information was collected from the Mission Charlottesville facebook page through additional mobile screenshots taken on the same day.

https://www.facebook.com/MissionCharlottesville/
11/28/2018 – Mobile Phone Screenshots
Here is a larger view of the 4th picture:

4

is of a church that embodies the good news of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God through message, service, and the expression of the power of God to the people of Charlottesville, Virginia. David V. Ford is a clergy member of the Wesleyan Covenant Association (W.C.A.) and Mission Charlottesville will be a member church of the W.C.A. Visit wesleyancovenant.org for more information.

To support Mission Charlottesville with your tax deductible gifts, send checks to:
Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia
C/O Rev. John Bright
14 Mansion Drive
Clarksville, VA 23927-9018


https://www.facebook.com/MissionCharlottesville/
11/28/2018 - Mobile Phone Screenshots
Following an initial report that was sent to the VAUMC Cabinet in December of 2018, the previous information was removed from the Mission Charlottesville facebook page. On Wednesday, May 22, 2019 - It was discovered that it had been put back up:

This information alone may not have been enough to prompt additional searches into *Mission Charlottesville* or their possible connections to the WCA and the EFVA.

But when members of First UMC began to follow *Mission Charlottesville* on social media...

and when the District Lay Leader of the Charlottesville District began to advertise this new church on her personal Facebook page...

and when members of First UMC began to leave, in order to begin attending worship services at *Mission Charlottesville*...

and when through different interpersonal exchanges, members of the *Mission Charlottesville* community used terms such as “spy” or “the enemy” when referring to and speaking to members of First UMC...

The following questions had to be asked:

Who is **David Ford**?  
What is his connection to the WCA and the EFVA?  
What are the connections between the WCA and EFVA?  
Why is the **VAUMC** not more on top of this?
To begin with, David Ford is a member of the Wesleyan Covenant Association. No problem, there are a few pastors that are... But Mission Charlottesville is a member church of the WCA. What does that mean...?

https://www.facebook.com/pg/MissionCharlottesville/about/
5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot
According to their own printed material, the WCA conveys the following information about congregational membership:

The Wesleyan Covenant Association has clergy and lay members from every annual conference in the United States and every central conference outside the United States. Hundreds of local churches have also become members. We are excited that churches of every size, including some of the largest membership churches in The United Methodist Church, have already become members.

5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot

Section 1. Membership. Membership in the WCA may be held and acquired by the following:

A. Congregations who subscribe to the statement of faith and moral principles, Sections 4, 5, and 6 of Article I, and are willing to cooperate in their ministry through the WCA;

B. Clergy persons who subscribe to the statement of faith and moral principles, Sections 4, 5, and 6 of Article I, and are willing to cooperate in their ministry through the WCA;

C. Laity who subscribe to the statement of faith and moral principles, Sections 4, 5, and 6 of Article I, who are believing and confessing Christians, who acknowledge and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and who desire to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of love;

D. All individual members shall have the responsibility of supporting the WCA through:
   1. Praying for the WCA, its ministries, and its members and leaders
   2. Advocating for the WCA in their local church
   3. Spreading the word about the WCA to neighboring congregations, clergy, and laity, encouraging their participation as appropriate
   4. Supporting the WCA financially through their member congregation or through individual contributions of at least the annual amount determined by the WCA Council

https://wesleyancovenant.org/membership/
5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot
The WCA also goes on to clearly identify that they are working within The United Methodist Church:

The following sections are quoted from the WCA bylaws.

**Purposes.** The Wesleyan Covenant Association (“WCA”) is an association of congregations, clergy persons, and laity who desire to cooperate in the mission of the WCA to promote the ministry of the gospel from a Wesleyan theological perspective within The United Methodist Church and kindred bodies. The WCA is organized exclusively for religious purposes. The purposes for which the WCA is formed include, but are not limited to:

https://wesleyancovenant.org/about-page/#1533313865857-b4653461-cac6
5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot

From the previous information, one might conclude that membership as a WCA affiliated church, is apparently not limited to just United Methodist Churches.

But The WCA does have a clear agenda to recruit from and affect change within The United Methodist Church.

With that in mind, the next question might be: What is David Ford’s connection to the WCA and to The United Methodist Church?
Firstly, we know that David Ford is a Clergy Member of the Wesleyan Covenant Association.

Rev. David V. Ford

- Served as Lead Pastor of five churches throughout his ministry
- Founding Pastor of a successful church plant in Williamsburg, VA
- Earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Philosophy from Palm Beach Atlantic University
- Earned a Masters of Divinity from Candler School of Theology at Emory University
- Enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry Program at Asbury Theological Seminary
- Clergy member of Wesleyan Covenant Association

Our Story - David and Mary Lou Ford

We have been in ministry together for 34 of our 36 years of marriage. God’s calling has led us to serve in Georgia and Virginia. Now God has instilled in us the vision of a new phase of ministry in Charlottesville, Virginia. God has proved faithful throughout our ministry and we are excited to take this next step of faith. We invite you to come along with us by supporting
In fact, when this information was being collected in November of 2018, **David Ford** was the **2nd Vice President** of the **WCA chapter in Virginia**.

![Screenshot of VaWCA Council](http://vawca.org/vawca-council/11/28/2018 - Laptop Screenshot)

This webpage has since been updated, but you can still see where they have (1st VP) next to Steve Hay’s name... Why a 1st if there is not currently a 2nd?

![Screenshot of VaWCA Council](http://vawca.org/vawca-council/5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot)
David Ford even attended the Wesleyan Covenant Association’s Global Legislative Assembly on November 2, 2018 in Marietta, GA - and as voting member, he offered a substitution to a resolution:

— David Ford, Virginia – SUBSTITUTION to #1 “Believes that the mission of God in and through the church is to model God’s holy love and to leave all people to the full as a witness of the Kingdom of God in Christ. To this end, the church carries out The Great Commission locally, nationally, and internationally, making disciples of Christ by proclaiming, demonstrating, baptizing and instructing (Matthew 10:5-8 and Matthew 28:18-20) and The Great Charge of loving, feeding, and tending the flock of God (John 21); and worshipping in spirit and truth (John 4) This The Church does until, perfected in love, she experiences the fullness of God’s restored Kingdom in the new creation with Christ in the age to come.” Seconded.
  - Joel Kershaw, Mountain Sky – Call the Question on ALL that is before us.
    - VOTE on Calling Question on ALL: Approved, 137 – Yes, 20 – No, 0 – Abstain.
  - VOTE on Ford Amendment: Defeated, 26 – Yes, 134– No, 0 – Abstain.

11/28/2018 - Laptop Screenshot

The resolution he was adding a substitution to was about creating a new denomination...

— Adoption, “Fundamental Features & Principles of a New Methodist Denomination.” Presented by Tom Lambrecht, WCA Council member. No second required, before the body from the WCA Council.

  - Katherine Fehl, Western PA – Amendment to Cooper Amendment: Replace “New” with “Renewed.”
    - VOTE: Defeated, 15 – Yes, 147 – No, 0 – Abstain.
  - VOTE on Original Amendment: Defeated, 26 – Yes, 134 – No, 3 – Abstain.
    - Mike Grant, East Ohio – Called the Question, seconded. Approved by acclamation.

11/28/2018 - Laptop Screenshot
Two other people even tried to change the wording to this proposal – but were overwhelmingly voted down on both accounts.

David Ford is clearly connected to the WCA, both locally, in Virginia, and on a national level. But why is he in Charlottesville starting a new church?

Is the WCA planting churches?

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  - Katherine Fehr, Western PA – Amendment to Cooper Amendment: Replace “New” with “Renewed.”
    - VOTE: Defeated, 15 – Yes, 147 – No, 0 – Abstain.
  - VOTE on Original Amendment: Defeated, 26 – Yes, 134 – No, 3 – Abstain.
    - Mike Grant, East Ohio – Called the Question, seconded. Approved by acclamation.

11/28/2018 – Laptop Screenshot
Yes, the Wesleyan Covenant Association has moved forward in operating outside of The United Methodist Church with apparent plans to start a “network of churches.”

https://www.facebook.com/MissionCharlottesville/
11/28/2018 - Mobile Phone Screenshots
In a bid to serve on the WCA Council - David Ford noted, as part of his nomination information (which everyone in WCA leadership read and saw), that he turned his United Methodist Ordination credentials to start a new WCA affiliated church.

2018 WCA Council Nominee Bios

The following persons have either been nominated by the WCA Council or nominated by members of the WCA to serve as members of the Class of 2021. Those persons with an * before their name have been nominated by the WCA Council. The Governance Committee of the WCA Council has determined that each person listed below meets the requirements of the WCA Bylaws to serve on the Council.

Ford, David – Clergy (Virginia)
I served appointments in both the South Georgia and Virginia Annual Conferences of the U.M.C. from 1984 to 2016. I was ordained a deacon in the South Georgia Conference in 1985 and an elder in the Virginia Annual Conference in 1991. I served as the founding pastor of the New Town U.M.C. in Williamsburg, VA from 1999 to 2014. Following God’s leading in 2016, I took retirement status and began the D. Min. degree at Asbury and in May of 2018 surrendered my ordination to begin a new church start known as Mission Charlottesville which is a member congregation of the W.C.A.

5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshots
As a note, this report is not just about David Ford - but it is about clearly establishing relationships and goals that exist between people and organizations.

The WCA is clearly working with David Ford as part of their plans to establish a new network of churches and even a new denomination. David Ford has surrendered his United Methodist Ordination credentials in order to do this work.

Concerns arise though when David Ford and the WCA use another organization (the Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia) to financially support their new denomination and network of churches.
If we review the information from the *Mission Charlottesville* facebook page, we learn that the ministry of this *WCA* affiliated church is financially supported through tax deductible donations made out to the *EFVA*.

https://www.facebook.com/pg/MissionCharlottesville/about/
5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot
The **EFVA** has very clearly defined objectives:

**Objectives**

1. To unite persons who support the purpose of the Evangelical Fellowship and who uphold its beliefs in fellowship for the purpose of continued discipleship, encouragement, accountability, and advocacy on behalf of that purpose and those beliefs.
2. To be a positive force within the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church to promote Biblical Christianity, our Wesleyan heritage, evangelistic fervor, the development of mature disciples, and personal and social holiness...for the renewal and revitalization of the organized church.
3. To encourage the preaching and teaching of the orthodox Christian faith openly and aggressively.
4. To hold periodic meetings and retreats, including gathering at the annual meeting of the Virginia Conference for inspiration, challenge, fellowship, and praise.
5. To facilitate ongoing communication among clergy and laity to encourage critical thinking about contemporary issues in light of Biblical Christianity and our Wesleyan heritage.
6. To influence the actions of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to remain rooted and grounded in Biblical Christianity and our Wesleyan heritage through the publication of our position on contemporary issues and through the election of clergy and lay delegates from the Virginia Conference who are committed to such principles.

[https://www.efumcva.org/objectives](https://www.efumcva.org/objectives)

5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot

Please take a moment to review Objectives 2, 4, and 6 of the Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia.
The EFVA is an organization that says their “purpose is to unite United Methodists, clergy & laity across the Virginia Conference”

They want “to be a positive force within the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church,”

They feel welcome to effectively “hold periodic meetings and retreats, including gathering at the annual meeting of the Virginia Conference for inspiration, challenge, fellowship, and praise.”

And they are striving to “influence the actions of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church”

https://www.efumcva.org/
Accessed on 5/22/2019

Why is the Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia financially supporting an alternative network of churches that are being led by former UMC clergy members who are working with the WCA to kick start a newly formed denomination within the boundaries of the Virginia Annual Conference?

That appears to be in opposition to all of their stated objectives.
For clarity, the addresses and contact listed from the Mission Charlottesville facebook page and the Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia website are the same.

To support Mission Charlottesville with your tax deductible gifts, send checks to:
Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia
C/O Rev. John Bright
14 Mansion Drive
Clarksville, VA 23927-9018

https://www.facebook.com/pg/MissionCharlottesville/about/
5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot

Contact us
Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia
14 Mansion Drive
Clarksville, VA 23927-9018
www.efumcva@gmail.com

https://www.efumcva.org/executive-board
5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot

https://www.efumcva.org/contact-us
5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot
The Wesleyan Covenant Association is working with the Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia to help support the new WCA affiliated church, Mission Charlottesville.

And the connections between these three organizations are even greater than simple facebook posts...

The images that follow are computer screenshots that illustrate the many connections that exist between the WCA (nationally and locally), The EFVA, and David Ford.
Board of Directors Executive Committee 2018-2019

Rev. Dr. H.O. Tom Thomas Jr., President
Rev. Gayle Thornberry, Vice President-Publications
Ms. Karen Bossieux, Secretary
Rev. John Bright, Treasurer
Dr. Tom Hassler, At Large Lay
Rev. Jack Davis, At Large Clergy
Ms. Brenda Hudson, At Large Lay
Rev. Bruce Johnson, At Large Clergy
Ms. Mary Jones, At Large Lay
Rev. Norman Ramsey, At Large Clergy
Ms. Becky Livermon, At Large Lay
Rev. Greg West, At Large Clergy
Rev. Keith Boyette, Non-Voting EO (WCA President)

https://www.efumcva.org/executive-board
5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot

Wesleyan Covenant Association of Virginia

VaWCA Council
Gayle Thornberry (President) (about Gayle)
Steve Hay (1st VP)
Greg West (Secretary)
Burt Robinson
Michelle Engel
Becky Livermon
Diane Hassell
Paulo Da Silva
Keith Boyette (Wesleyan Covenant Association President and ad hoc member of the Council for the VaWCA)

http://vawca.org/vawca-council/
5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot
It’s hard to read to but you can also view the Board Members of the Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia by class year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2019</th>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dave Boger (C)</td>
<td>Jim Lavender, Jr. (C)</td>
<td>Burton Robinson (C)</td>
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<td>DeWayne Duncan (C)</td>
<td>Michael Monge (L)</td>
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<td>Steve Hay (C)</td>
<td>Janet Moore (L)</td>
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<td>John Bright (CE)</td>
<td>Brenda Hudson (LE)</td>
<td>Tommy Shepherd (C)</td>
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<td>Doug Child, Sr. (L)</td>
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<td>Gayle Thornberry (CE)</td>
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<td>Jack Davis (CE)</td>
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<td>Mike Weaver (L)</td>
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<td>Brandon Nichols (C)</td>
<td>Ginger A. Turner (L)</td>
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<td>Tom Barnard (C)</td>
<td>David Ford (C)</td>
<td>Becky Livermon (LE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Bossieux (LE)</td>
<td>Ron Hardman (L)</td>
<td>Richard McDowell (C)</td>
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<td>Penny Cory (C)</td>
<td>Tom Hassler (LE)</td>
<td>Kenny Newsome (C)</td>
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<td>Paulo Da Silva (C)</td>
<td>Ed Johnson (C)</td>
<td>John Wright (C)</td>
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<td>LeRoy Jones (C)</td>
<td>Virginia Conference General Evangelists Voting Ex Officio</td>
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<td>George King (C)</td>
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<td>Greg West (CE)</td>
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<td>Wesleyan Covenant Association President Non-Voting Ex Officio</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Keith Boyette (CE)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**David Ford** (class of 2021) was recently elected back to the EFVA Board for another 3 year term.

https://www.efumcva.org/board-by-class-year

5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot
When you view them together:

https://www.efumcva.org/board-by-class-year

5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot

http://vawca.org/vawca-council/

5/22/2019 - Laptop Screenshot
7/9 members of the Virginia Wesleyan Covenant Association Council maintain active membership on the Board of Directors for the Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia.

David Ford is also an active member on the Board of Directors for the Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia and recent VP of the Virginia Wesleyan Covenant Association.

The Board Members of the Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia are working to solicit financial support for the new WCA affiliated church, Mission Charlottesville.

The WCA is using the Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia as a tax-free financial conduit for the expressed purpose of starting an alternative denomination.
Following the launch of Mission Charlottesville on December 2, 2018 – more information has been made available through a lay member of the Charlottesville District of The United Methodist Church who attended the first public worship service of Mission Charlottesville.

These are photos of selected sections of their informational pamphlet that they handed out to guests.
Mission Charlottesville is a missional church that practices obedience to Christ’s command to make known the good news of Jesus Christ and His kingdom. We spread the good news through proclamation and demonstration to make disciples of Jesus Christ locally, nationally, and internationally. Mission Charlottesville commits to being a church that helps to plant other such missional churches. Doctrinally, Mission Charlottesville is in the historic company of John Wesley. In view of this statement, we embrace and commit ourselves to live out the following core values and actions.

**Biblical Truth**
Mission Charlottesville believes in the revealed truth of God’s word which is inspired, authoritative, and inerrable. **Action:** We are a Bible-based community that remains faithful to scripture in its mission, preaching, and teaching.

**Kingdom Centered**
Mission Charlottesville is a kingdom-centered church that believes in the saving grace of God in Christ. **Action:** A kingdom-centered church spreads the gospel, participates in missions, follows Christ’s example, and shows the love of God for his creation.

**Disciples of Christ**
Mission Charlottesville believes in equipping disciples and leaders for ministry through a six-fold equipping ministry team comprised of those gifted and called of God to serve as apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher, and preacher. We view each person as a disciple, called to make disciples, and able to make God’s word known to others. **Action:** We have a path for developing disciples that operate using their spiritual gifts to teach and prepare others to be disciples.

**Prayer Saturated Church**
Mission Charlottesville is a church where prayer saturates ministry, missions, worship, and individual lives. We believe our prayers can and will make an impact on the church, community, and world. **Action:** We are a church where people live out prayer by praying together, praying for others, supporting intercessory and healing prayer while encouraging and teaching others to pray.

**Glorify Grow Go**
**Servant Leadership**
Jesus is the ultimate embodiment of a servant leader and is our example. **Action:** We intentionally develop and nurture servant leaders. Our leaders serve with humility, are accountable, empowered, and reflect the reality of the Kingdom of God in their actions.

**Authentic Praise and Worship**
Mission Charlottesville values corporate and individual worship, believing that, worship of God is part of our lifestyle as disciples of Jesus Christ. We believe that worship should be Holy Spirit led, passionate, and expressive. **Action:** We express our biblical beliefs through authentic praise and worship done in spirit and in truth leading us to encounter God.
The efforts by the Board Members of the Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia and the Virginia Wesleyan Covenant Association Council, to support this new network of churches are a great cause for concern.

The actions by these clergy and lay members display a disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church because they are facilitating the dissemination of doctrines that contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church and undermining and disrupting the ministry of other pastors in the Charlottesville area.
In the weeks leading up to the launch of Mission Charlottesville, the District Lay Leader of the Charlottesville District of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encouraged and invited her facebook friends to attend this new Wesleayn Covenant Association church through sharing posts from the Mission Charlottesville facebook page. She was confirmed as an attendee at this service and resigned from her position at the end of 2018.

The District Lay Leader

The post she shared:

https://www.facebook.com/11/28/2018–Mobile Phone Screenshots

*This is one of multiple posts that were shared.*
With all of this information, why is the **Evangelical Fellowship of Virginia** still allowed banquet space and by its inclusion, given the tacit approval of the **Virginia Annual Conference**?