

Martha E. Stokes

Martha Stokes serves as the Director of Leadership and Inclusivity for the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, Richmond, VA. She has been a part of the conference staff team since July of 2000. Her life is truly enriched by the tapestry of amazing people from all walks of life, areas of the conference, ability levels, and backgrounds with whom she has the opportunity to be in ministry.

Martha's staff portfolio includes the Conference Board of Laity, Board of Discipleship, all the Commissions dealing with inclusivity (Disabilities, Ethnic Local Church Concerns, Religion and Race, and Status and Role of Women), Ethnic Ministries, and the Life Span Ministries Councils for Single Adult and Older Adult Ministries. Camp Rainbow Connection, one of the ministries of the Commission on Disabilities, falls under her office.

Prior to this position, Martha worked in the fields of rehabilitation and education as a Vocational Evaluator and Vocational Counselor for the Henrico County Public Schools, Richmond, VA. She holds a master's degree in social work, in the areas of mental health and mental retardation, from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a bachelor's degree in religion and social work from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC. Martha is a certified lay speaker and holds professional certification through The United Methodist Church in Older Adult Ministries.

Martha grew up in Fieldale Church on the Danville District. She and her husband, Steve, are members of the church family at Shady Grove United Methodist in Glen Allen where she serves as chair of the music and arts program area team, worship and song leader.

[Martha may be contacted at marthastokes@vaumc.org or phone 1-800-768-6040, ext. 154 or in the Richmond area, (804) 521-1154.]