Annual Conference 2018, June 15-17
Hampton Roads Convention Center
Hampton, VA

Agenda
Friday morning, June 15
9:00 a.m. Report on Commission on a Way Forward, Rev. Tom Berlin.................... Halls B, C
10:30 a.m. Laity Session ...................................................... Halls B, C
10:30 a.m. Clergy Session........................................................................ Ballrooms D, E, F, G
Friday Afternoon, June 15
2:00 p.m. Call to Order Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
Click <www.vaumc.org/AC2018> to view the full 2018 Agenda of the Annual Conference.

Great Day of Service
Following the Mission Service on Saturday, June 16, Bishop Lewis is asking all clergy and lay members to participate in a Great Day of Service from 2 to 5 p.m. This event will be broken into three sections: ministry within the City of Hampton, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) kit building in the convention center, and presentations on social justice issues at the convention center. Each clergy and lay member will be asked to sign up for one of these activities prior to Annual Conference. Registration is forthcoming. Each participant will receive a T-shirt to be worn during the Great Day of Service. How will you help create an impact on the Hampton Roads area with your service? Click <www.vaumc.org/AC2018> to read more about the Great Day of Service. There have been some questions regarding the $10 donation for persons participating in a Great Day of Service at annual conference. As noted on the registration, this donation helps to defray the cost of a t-shirt for participants, health kits, transportation, and other expenses associated with the Great Day of Service. Please contact Marc Brown at <marcbrown@vaumc.org> if the amount of this donation prevents your participation in this event.

Annual Conference Offering
Bishop Lewis has announced the annual conference mission offering goal of $200,000 to focus on the following missional priority projects:
◆ Cambodia: $50,000 - Church Growth and Development and Community Health and Agricultural Development
◆ Brazil: $25,000 - Shade and Fresh Water Ministry with Children
◆ Mozambique: $25,000 - Lay Leadership Development
◆ Native Americans: $10,000 - Support for Volunteers in Mission teams working with Native American Ministry and Tribal Youth
◆ Cuba Recovery: $25,000 - Hurricane Recovery for Churches in Cuba
◆ Haiti: $25,000 - Funds to support Volunteers in Mission teams to Haiti
◆ Puerto Rico Recovery: $25,000 - Hurricane Recovery support for Puerto Rican churches
◆ Moscow Seminary: $15,000 - Support for student scholarships
For more information call the 521-1108.

District AC Orientation,
May 31, 7 p.m.
An orientation session for the Richmond District members of the 2018 Virginia Annual Conference will be held on Thursday, May 31 at 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd UMC, 9155 Hungary Road, Richmond. It is important that clergy, church lay members, and district lay members be present to be briefed on issues coming before the Conference. Questions? Call 521-1124.

Kits for Conference 2018
As your church begins preparation for collecting items for kits, there is currently an appeal from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for Hygiene, School, and Cleaning Kits only. Click <www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies> for the complete list of items and instructions on packing each kit. Collection times at Annual Conference will be on Thursday, June 14 from 12 noon to 8 p.m. and on Friday, June 15 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For questions call (757) 898-7417. Money for the kits should be sent to the Conference Treasurer, Virginia Conference UMC, PO Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058. Checks should be made payable to Virginia Conference UMC.

UM Center Closings
The District Office and the VAUMC Conference Center will close Friday, May 25 at 1 p.m. and be closed on Monday, May 28 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

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Richmond District

The Virginia Conference • United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 5606 • Glen Allen, Virginia 23058
Telephone (804) 521-1124 • Fax (804) 521-1175 • RichmondDistrict@vaumc.org

May 2018

Friends,

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. (Romans 12:2)

I want to thank so many of you for coming to join this past weekend’s “Way Forward, Version RD” event. I hope and pray that you, as did I, found the conversation helpful and informative as we all become as prepared as we can be for the coming year in our denomination.

We spent some time this weekend addressing the subject of conflict. This past week, as I reflected upon our work together and our work going forward, I found my spirit drifting to the above passage and Paul’s reflection on the issues of “zeal.”

Most of us have been around long enough to recognize the many zealous people in our midst. In fact, most of us, (hopefully!) are seeking a good bit of that zeal in ourselves. If there is no passion, no extraordinary love and spiritual energy in our life and work, we will be living a life of ministry that is entirely too tame and has no contagious movement from us. We could all use more of the zeal of which the Apostle Paul speaks.

But this Pauline zeal also begs a question. Is our zeal grounded in what we are for or is it grounded in what we are against? All of us have heard and worked with spiritual clergy and lay leaders who are very clear in what they are against. Their passion and intensity are immediately evident and clear and sometimes it is all you hear. The energy gathers our attention and their focus as they fight the powers that be. But if you are like me, you walk from the room understanding what they are against, but also wondering what they are for.

A couple of weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending the Bishop’s convocation on Race and Reconciliation. It was an excellent event that caused me to do some deeper reflection. We had a video offered by Dr. Robin DiAngelo, author of “What Does It Mean to Be White?” She said something I haven’t been able to get out of my mind: “One of the most powerful ways that racism has survived after the (modern) Civil Rights Era is by creating a binary between “good people” and “bad racism.” In short, she said that often we see racism has survived after the (modern) Civil Rights Era is by creating a binary between “good people” and “bad racism.”

Because I focus on what I am not (or at least believe I am not), I overlook my own sin and racism and thereby become complicit in systemic racism. If you remember, the same dynamic occurred after our recent presidential election. Many analysts reviewed the surprising loss by the democratic side and reflected that in part, democrats lost the election because they defined themselves by what they were not instead of what they were.

Like Paul, all of us can find ourselves guilty of living our spiritual lives in the cause of misguided zeal. There are many ways to do this but one of the premier ones is simply the tendency to center our passion in what we are against instead of what we are for.

Let us remember that what we are for is much more powerful than just what we are against. We are for the gospel, we are for the kingdom, we are for the love that has conquered all, we are for the life abundant and eternal that we are promised. We are for the church, the beautiful one that the gates of hell shall not overcome. We are for forgiveness, and we are for hope. The list could go on but you get the point. In all the present and coming fuss, let us not forget what we are for.

In Christ,

Pete

Ride for a Reason!

United Methodist Holy Rollers bicycle ride, June 8–9, and 16.

Do you enjoy a little exercise? Do you relish making friends? Do you delight in helping people around the world?

Come ride your bicycle with the United Methodist Holy Rollers.

For the 15th year in a row, we will be riding to raise money for the United Methodist Virginia Annual Conference Offering. The full route will be 200 miles in two days, but we have made it easy to do only a portion of that. Is 25 miles a good challenge for you? No problem, we’ll have a shuttle available for you!

The ride is fully supported, with a carefully planned route, SAG vehicles, a mechanic, a nurse, meals and overnight accommodations.

The main ride will be June 8–9, near Evergreen and Farmville. Registration will be $15 per loop, or $50 for the entire ride (four loops). In addition, we will have a free Celebration and Service Ride at Annual Conference on June 16, in Hampton.

Wondering how to get started? We will also have a free, newcomer-friendly training ride on Saturday, April 28, in Charlottesville.

For more details, or to contact us, please visit our website <www.umholyrollers.com>.

Prayers for...

- Rev. Keith Lauer, Mt. Hermon, and son Charles who continues to recover from a serious car accident.
- Rev. Rita Callis, medical leave, who has been referred to Hospice due to pancreatic cancer.
- Rev. Stephen Coleman, Reveille UMC associate, whose father died April 5.
- Rev. Kelley Lane, Reveille deacon, on the death of her father-in-law April 4.
- Rev. Christy haga Turner, Westhampton, on the death of her grandmother on April 4.
- Rev. Margie Turbyfill, retired, who had successful hip replacement surgery on May 2.
AGCC Mentors Needed

All God’s Children Camp is two months away and mentors are still needed for all three dates. Currently there are 90 campers signed up and 20 mentors. Thirty mentors are needed for each camp. All God’s Children Camp is a camp for children ages 7 to 12, with an incarcerated mother or father, where they spend a week at camp, participating in activities such as boating, swimming, hiking, archery, music, crafts, Bible study and conflict resolution. Partnering with Virginia United Methodist camps, All God’s Children Camp provides a week of sanctuary for children who face so many challenges in their lives: economic poverty, temporary living conditions, loneliness, low self-esteem, violence and drugs. Please consider giving a week of your time to pour into a child’s life. This is a great opportunity for members and friends in your community to serve together. Maybe there are already groups in your church or community, such as UMM, UMW, college age ministries or Sunday school classes, who can come together and serve this way. This is a great local mission opportunity with very little cost ($20). The dates are: June 17-22: Camp Chanco on the James (Richmond area); June 24-29: Camp Overlook (Shenandoah Valley area); and July 29-August 3: Occohannock on the Bay (Eastern Shore). Please contact Lori Smith at lttelori@gmail.com for more information.

Children’s Musical

The Reveille UMC children’s musical takes place on Sunday, May 6, at 3:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The children’s choir will present Once Upon A Parable by Allen Pote. In this musical, a group of energetic storytellers try to capture the humor and contemporary nature of some of Jesus’ most familiar parables. Reveille UMC is located at 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond. For more information, visit <www.reveilleumc.org/music-events>.

Immigration Summit

In 2017, Bishop Sharma Lewis formed the Virginia Conference Committee on Immigration Outreach to help the conference communicate the Gospel as it relates to immigrants and refugees. The committee also seeks to help the conference understand issues related to immigrants and refugees, and how to advocate for them. In partnership with the General Board of Church and Society, Just Neighbors, and the Southeastern Jurisdiction Hispanic Caucus, the committee is sponsoring an Immigration Summit on Saturday, May 19 at Ramsey Memorial UMC, 5900 Hull Street Road, Richmond, to educate and empower those who want to be in ministry to immigrants and refugees. The planned agenda is as follows:

10:00 a.m.—Worship: What does the Bible say? What does the UMC say?
11:30-12:30—Current Events: Executive orders, increased deportation, travel bans etc. What is happening at State level? Overview on what the churches and other groups can do, and levels of sanctuary churches.
12:30-1:00—Lunch break
1:00-3:00—Breakout Sessions

Attendance to the summit is free of charge and a boxed lunch can be purchased at the time of registration. Register at <www.vaumc.org/events>.

Convergence

Convergence: Where Faith and Science Meet is a 9-day program, June 23-July 1, that allows rising 10-12th grade students to come to Randolph-Macon’s campus in Ashland and learn about the intersection of science and Christian faith. They will dive deeper into their religious beliefs, deeper into the study of science. The cost to participate is only $100 for this 9-day program. Upon high school graduation, if a Convergence participant chooses to attend Randolph-Macon, they will receive a $1,000 annual scholarship for each year they participated in Convergence. Please visit <http://convergence.rmc.edu/> to learn more or contact <convergence@rmc.edu> with any questions about the program.

Benefit Concert

The 25th anniversary of the Mission Benefit Concert at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road will be held on Sunday, May 20, at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. Ted Smith will direct the Chancel Choir and a chamber orchestra in a performance of Haydn’s Nelson Mass. Soloists and the Reveille Ringers will also participate in the concert. For more information, visit <www.reveilleumc.org/music-events>.

KIDz C.A.M.P.

Rising third-sixth graders are invited to participate in KIDz C.A.M.P., June 18-22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., focused on local mission projects, fun activities, music, Bible stories, and more. Learn more about Reveille UMC’s KIDz C.A.M.P. and register at <www.reveilleumc.org/kidz-camp>. Reveille UMC is located at 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond.
Lay Servant Training
Welcome to Bill Pike as director of Lay Servant Ministries: <bpike@trinityumc.net>, 288-6056. Richmond District Certified Lay Servants lead worship regularly at the following care centers:

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>5/6</td>
<td>Beth Sholom</td>
<td>A Henderson</td>
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Visit the Plant Sale at UMFS, 3900 West Broad Street, Richmond 23230. Call 353-4461 for more information.

19th Annual Plant Sale
Wednesday May 9 - 8:30am - 3:00pm
Thursday May 10 - 8:30am - 2:30pm

The students have been working all year to make this plant sale the best one yet!

- Flowering annuals
- Planters
- Perennials
- Hanging baskets
- Succulents
- Vegetables
- Jellies & herb mixes from the culinary arts students

Visit the Plant Sale at UMFS, 3900 West Broad Street, Richmond 23230. Call 353-4461 for more information.

District Opportunities

- May 4–District UMW On the Road in Mission Day Trip, 218-0627.
- May 4-5–Lay Servant Training, Warsaw UMC, 521-1153.
- May 6–Children’s Musical, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- May 6–Charterhouse School Annual Plant Sale, UMFS, 353-4461.
- May 16–VAPAUMCS Spring Retreat, WE Skelton 4-H Center, Wirtz, 321-1124.
- May 19–Immigration Summit, Ramsey Memorial UMC, 521-1139.
- May 20–Benefit Concert, Reveille UMC, 359-6041.
- May 31–Annual Conference Orientation, Good Shepherd UMC, 521-1124.
- June 1–2–Richmond District Lay Servant Training, VAUMCtri, 288-6056.
- June 1–2–Conference UMW Day at Ferrum College, 744-3034.
- June 8–9–UM Holy Rollers, bike ride, 434/466-4467.
- June 15–17–Annual Conference, Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, 521-1134.
- June 17–22–All God’s Children Camp, Camp Chanco, 571/245-9591.
- June 16–Great Day of Service, Annual Conference, Hampton, 521-1134.
- June 23–July 1–Convergence, Randolph-Macon, Ashland, 752-7374.
- June 24–29–All God’s Children Camp, Camp Overlook, 571/245-9591.
- July 22–26–Youth Servant Leadership Summer Camp, Pace Center, VCU, 658-4064.
- June 29–August 3–All God’s Children Camp, Camp Occohannock, 571/245-9591.
- August 15–17–Lay Servant Academy, 4-H Center, Wertz, VA, 521-1153.