



THE RICHMOND DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Newsletter of The Richmond District • Virginia Conference • The United Methodist Church
July 2020



Welcome, Farewell and Congratulations!

We welcome the following clergy who received new appointments to the Richmond District effective July 1:

- ◆ Rev. Pam Anderson to Discovery UMC as associate
- ◆ Rev. Hanna Bryn to Discovery UMC as Minister of Community Discipleship and Youth
- ◆ Rev. Joshua Dalton to Woodlake UMC as associate
- ◆ Rev. Renee Delgado to Good Shepherd UMC as Minister of Child Discipleship and Worship
- ◆ Rev. James Dettmer to Bethel UMC
- ◆ Rev. Shayne Estes to Central UMC
- ◆ Rev. Hikisha Harris to Worship and Praise UMC as associate
- ◆ Rev. Amy Wolz Johnson to Mechanicsville UMC
- ◆ Rev. Michael Kendall to Duncan Memorial UMC
- ◆ Rev. Eunji Kim to Fairmount UMC
- ◆ Rev. Hyeon Ho Lee to Laurel Hill UMC
- ◆ Lay Supply Joe Maslanka to Mt. Hermon and Prospect UMCs
- ◆ Rev. Mike Mayton to Bon Air UMC
- ◆ Rev. Peter Moon to Reveille UMC
- ◆ Rev. Lynda Moore to Asbury UMC (Church Hill)
- ◆ Rev. Archana Samuel to Sherbourne UMC
- ◆ Rev. Jim Sprouse to Huguenot UMC
- ◆ Rev. David Torrence to Willis UMC

◆ Rev. Ron White to Providence UMC (Chesterfield) as associate

And wish God's richest blessings to these pastors who are leaving the District to begin new adventures in ministry:

- ◆ Rev. Sandra Bottoms, to extension ministry at Chester Presbyterian
 - ◆ Rev. Terry Eum to the Rappahannock River District
 - ◆ Rev. John R. Hall, Sr., retired, to the James River District
 - ◆ Rev. Mi Sook Ahn to the York River District
 - ◆ Rev. Marilyn Heckstall to the Roanoke District
 - ◆ Rev. Doug Forrester to the Roanoke District as Superintendent
 - ◆ Rev. Michael Whaley to the Elizabeth River District
- And prayers for a blessed retirement for:

- ◆ Rev. Burt Brooks
- ◆ Rev. Pam Culler
- ◆ Rev. Marie Misiaszek
- ◆ Rev. John R. Hall, Sr.
- ◆ Rev. Dorothy McNeer O'Quinn
- ◆ Rev. Kerry Boggs
- ◆ Rev. Sheldon McLeod
- ◆ Rev. Yunho Eo
- ◆ Rev. Gay Hall
- ◆ Rev. Mark Ogren
- ◆ Rev. Kathy Talley ◆



COVID-19 Date Changes

- ◆ General Conference scheduled to begin May 5, has been rescheduled for August 29-September 7, 2021.
- ◆ VA PAUMCS Spring Event planned for May 27 at the VAUMC Center will be rescheduled.
- ◆ Annual Conference scheduled for June 18-20 in Roanoke is being moved to September 19 online.
- ◆ The Lay Servant Academy scheduled July 17-19 at Randolph-Macon College has been canceled.
- ◆ Mission Encounter scheduled for July 24-26 at Smith Mountain Lake has been canceled.
- ◆ Jurisdictional Conference scheduled for July, has been postponed until November 10-12, 2021. ◆

UM Center Closings

The VAUMC Conference Center and the Richmond District Office have reopened for staff only effective July 6. Please call, 521-1124, to set a time for a Zoom meeting or phone visit. ◆

INSIDE

A Word from the Superintendent.....	2
Welcome Our New DS.....	2
All God's Children Camp Canceled	3
Opportunities	4



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

July 2020

Dear laity and clergy of the Richmond District,

As we live through and engage in ministry in this unprecedented time, I pray that God's marvelous grace and Christ's life-giving power to uphold you through the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

Until a few days ago, just like you I was on the front lines of ministries of recording messages for online, experimenting with drive in service, having multiple zoom meetings, discussing financial matters with the leadership while seeking ways to provide pastoral support to those who are scared, mourn, and angry. Through all, people often asked, "Pastor, will we be ever the same again, ever? When do you think we will open?"

At the same time, since February I had the honor of working closely with Bishop Lewis and the cabinet members as a District Superintendent designee. Many times, I witnessed our Bishop and the cabinet fast, pray, and seek God's guidance because they deeply care for the churches and the clergy. Through this transition process, I learned that we are dealing with many unknowns, and we don't have all the answers.

Besides, I have personal anxieties as I moved to this new role of superintendency. I am not sure whether I am qualified to serve as a District Superintendent especially in time like this. While many congratulated me, they also commented, "This is difficult time to be DS. I will pray for you!" Besides, English is not my first language, I have fear whether people would understand me with my accent. And then, there is that big "what if with the General Conference." Do I have the courage to do what God asked me to do at all cost?

So, I lost some sleep. Yet, in spite of these anxieties, I believe the good news that Christ the risen Lord is still the head of the church, his body. His authority and power is "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, *not only in this age but also in the age to come.*" And our God, "by the power at work within us *is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.*" (Ephesians 1:21, 3:20, Italics added, NRSV). This means, in spite of the virus and its negative impacts on our lives, in spite of our struggle for racial justice, in spite of our worry for our future as a denomination, the risen Lord reigns and God's mighty power is working in us; therefore, we can accomplish new and great things with God.

This is the good news I believe. Would you remember this good news and ask the Lord to show you and your churches awesome and exciting ways to serve the Lord far more than you have been thinking or imagining?

In the Lord,

Hyo Lee, Richmond District Superintendent

Welcome Our New DS

We welcome Rev. Dr. Hyo Lee as our new District Superintendent.

Dr. Lee was born in South Korea in 1964, and raised in a Christian home through the faith of his mother and grandmother.



After graduating from Yonsei University, one of the schools established by Presbyterian and Methodist missionaries in 1885, he served three years in the Army as an officer. In 1990, he came to the States to further his theological education. He completed his M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary, and Ph.D., from Vanderbilt University Graduate School. He was ordained in the Tennessee Annual Conference as an elder in 1999, and transferred to the Virginia Conference in 2000. He previously served churches in Arlington, Danville, Winchester, and Alexandria districts. While serving a local church in Winchester, he also taught biblical studies at Shenandoah University. He has served on the District Committee of Ordained Ministries, Conference Board of Ordained Ministries, CEMCA, and Asian American Ministers' Associations. Rev. Lee and his wife, Kay, who is a registered nurse, have two children, Joshua and Sophia living in the Washington D.C. area. ♦

Prayers for...

- ♦ The family of the Rev. Henry Mason, member of Lakeside UMC, retired minister of another UM conference, and former professional baseball player in the Negro Leagues, who died June 4.
- ♦ The family of Marion Dillard, widow of the Rev. F. Douglas Dillard, who was the Conference director of Council on Ministries, who died June 17.
- ♦ Rev. Judy Oguich, Trinity, on the death of her mother, Mildred Clegg, who died June 13 in Ohio.
- ♦ Rev. Denise Watkins, St. Andrew's UMC, whose mother in WV has had a serious stroke.
- ♦ Rev. Louis Carson, retired, on the death of his wife, Geneva, June 6.
- ♦ Rev. Owen Taylor, Beaverdam and Rouzie's Chapel UMCs, who will have gall bladder surgery on July 9. ♦



Clergy Facebook Group

District clergy people are invited to join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/625932661327796/>.

This group is dedicated to our Richmond District Clergy. We want to help keep our clergy resourced and encouraged! Please use this page to share valuable resources that help you in your ministry so that others can also benefit! If you have any specific questions for our Richmond DS, please email him directly at <RichmondDS@vaumc.org>. ♦

Richmond District COVID-19 Resources

There are an abundance of resources available to local churches pursuing ministry during this time of Coronavirus. Here are but a few:

- ♦ VAUMC New Website has great resources for you and your church. Check them out here: <https://vaumc.org/coronavirusresources/>. Check out the Webinars called Crucial Crisis Conversations at the end of the page link
- ♦ Online Worship Attendance Guidelines: http://doc.vaumc.org/Cabinet/OnlineWorshipAttendanceGuidelines.pdf?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=e-advocate-april-7-2020_9
- ♦ The Spark Mill (Free Strategy Sessions, Webinars and Blogs): <https://www.thesparkmill.com/covid19>
- ♦ UNSTUCK GROUP (weekly Blogs, Podcasts and Webinars): <https://theunstuckgroup.com/coronavirus/> and <https://tonymorganlive.com/author/tony/> (7 shifts churches need to make because of COVID-19)
- ♦ Barna Church Pulse Weekly with David Kinnaman and Carey Nieuwhof (Webinars, Podcasts and Blogs): <http://churchpulseweekly.org/> and <https://stateofthechurch.com/churchpulse-weekly> (Free Church tool kit to help during COVID-19)
- ♦ Excellence in Ministry Coaching (emc3): <https://emc3coaching.com/blog/>
- ♦ Fresh Expressions US (Webinars, Audio/Videos, Blogs): <https://freshexpressionsus.org/> ♦

New Conference Website Unveiled

You may have noticed a new conference website was quietly launched recently. The Conference Communications staff is thrilled to release this new resource and the new possibilities it allows for future communications and resources.

Look around the website at www.vaumc.org to familiarize yourself with the new features and the new layout. You will notice the magnifying glass icon at the top right of the website which will allow you to search the website for anything you might need.

Unfortunately, all the internal and external links had to be changed with the move to a new platform and host. Please be aware of this if you have shared documents from the conference website. You will need to redo links you have shared in the past.

If you have questions, please email communications@vaumc.org.

Please know that we are working speedily and diligently on any questions or concerns you may have. Please be patient with us during this process as we are continuing to update content and to process the technical aspects of the website. For questions call 521-1116. ♦

Connectional Resources during COVID-19 Survey

The Richmond District is home to a number of amazing mission ministries that reach out to our local community and help those who are most vulnerable. Unfortunately, many of these ministries are staffed by older members who are no longer able to volunteer. In addition, there are many churches whose local missions do not fit with social distancing requirements (ex. ESOL tutoring) and have put their mission on pause, but have resources to share with those who need it.

We are a connectional church! Let's connect our needs with our gifts so we can be the church throughout the Richmond District.

Please see RichmondDistrictUMC.org for a survey to indicate your church's community ministries, the needs of those ministries, and resources your church may have to offer to assist in others' ministries.

If you have questions please contact Rev. Katie Gooch, 405/301-6215. ♦



2020 camp dates cancelled for All God's Children Camp

The All God's Children Camp board met and it is with a heavy heart that camp will be cancelled for this summer. The leadership team shared in a statement, "This decision was not made lightly but felt this was the best decision we could make given the circumstances and information we have regarding COVID-19. Please pray for our staff, our mentors and our campers who will be missing their yearly reunion with each other and will be grieving camp life. Please pray for our staff as we think outside of the box to show our campers that we are still here for them and support them during this time." You can still support the camp through monetary donations. The camp will still be sending materials, resources and supplies and care packages to all of the campers to help spread the love of Jesus. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lori Smith at 571-245-9591 or ltlelori@gmail.com. ♦

Healthy Church Team News

In a letter from June 16, Bishop Lewis thanked clergy, laity, and the Healthy Church Teams for all of the hard work in planning and executing worship from in-person, to online, to drive-in, to telephonic and shared next steps as the conference enters Stage 2. Beginning Sunday, June 21, the conference will expand in-person worship and other church gatherings. A new resource has been created, the Technical Assistance Manual (TAM), for Healthy Church Teams to use which will replace the Handbook for Local Churches. The TAM is considerably reduced in size and easier to use and includes all the requirements for in-person worship and gatherings. Both the letter and the TAM can be found on the conference website at vaumc.org. ♦

Lay Servant Schedule

Bessie Owens,
director,
Lay Servant
Ministries:
<obessie10@
yahoo.com>, 745-
5372. Richmond

District Certified Lay Servants lead
worship regularly at the following
care centers:

Our usual preaching sites--
Beth Shalom, University Park and
Elmcroft--are closed to outside
visitors for the COVID-19 Crisis. We
look forward to resuming our visits
soon. ♦



Annual Conference 2020

The Bishop, Appointive Cabinet and
the Annual Conference Planning
team have continued to evaluate
options while conducting extensive
logistical work of planning for the
2020 Virginia Annual Conference. In a
statement from June 29, the groups
shared that the 2020 Annual Conference
will take place on Saturday, September
19, 2020, in a virtual format. ♦



DISTRICT DISPATCH

Richmond District
Virginia Conference
The United Methodist Church
10330 Staples Mill Road
P.O. Box 5606
Glen Allen, Virginia 23058
Phone: (804)521-1124
FAX: 521-1175
Email: RichmondDistrict@vaumc.org

Sharma D. Lewis	Area Bishop
Hyo J. Lee	District Superintendent
Susan Petrey	Administrative Assistant, Web Administrator
Maria Maxwell	Coordinator, Next Level Innovations
Tina Gudgel	District Treasurer
Susan Custer	District Lay Leader
Scotty Doyle	District President, UMW
Dann Ladd	District President, UMM
Bill Chaffin	District Ministry of Scouting Coord.
Bessie Owens	Director, Lay Servant Ministries

We're on the web at:
www.richmonddistrictumc.org

The DEADLINE for the NEXT ISSUE is
the 15th of the month.



From the
Bishop

Update on Finance and Staffing

June 19, 2020

Dear Virginia Annual Conference:

Following up on my May 12 letter, here are key
updates pertaining to the Virginia Conference's
finances and staffing.

While we continue to face strong financial
challenges, I am cautiously optimistic that the toughest
economic effects of the pandemic are slowly subsiding.
The cost controls we have implemented have been
working well, though we still need to be vigilant and to
continuously find ways to work to optimal efficiency.

I am also optimistic that apportionment payments will
soon increase now that the Commonwealth is reopening,

albeit gradually and carefully, with a proper emphasis on public safety. A number
of churches in the Conference are returning to in-person worship this Sunday
and I am expecting other churches to do so in the coming weeks.

Through May 31, we have collected 26.5 percent of the 2020 apportionments.
Last year we had collected 31.3 percent of apportionments at this same
time. As a reminder, the Council on Finance and Administration reduced 2020
apportionments by 27.2 percent in March 2020.

Cost saving measures at the Conference have resulted in lower expenditures
which is partially offsetting the decrease in apportionment receipts. I thank
the many churches that have made substantial apportionment payments in
2020, and prayerfully ask that other churches do so as well.

I am also encouraged because the Conference's unrestricted reserves are
above the minimum target set at last year's annual conference. Should there
be a hard hitting second wave of COVID-19, these resources will be quite
important for the Conference and all the churches we serve.

Considering the evolving financial situation and to best serve our members,
we have returned three professionals at the Conference to full-time status
from part-time status. Two are in the communications area and one is in
information technology. These professions are especially important given the
challenges at hand.

Finally, I want to commend the Treasurer's Office at the Conference and the
United Methodist Credit Union for helping dozens of churches and affiliated
organizations to obtain \$2.8 million of forgivable loans under the federal
government's Paycheck Protection Program. Funds are still available as the
credit union made clear in an announcement on June 17. The Treasurer's Office
and the Credit Union are available to work with churches on applications.

We are fully committed and focused on our mission of making Disciples
for Jesus Christ. While the pandemic has forced us to make many changes,
we have been and will adapt to perform that mission.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Peace and Blessings,
Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

District Opportunities

All Richmond District events have been canceled until further notice

- ♦ ~~July 17-19-Lay Servant Academy-
Randolph-Macon College, 521-1155.~~
- ♦ ~~July 24-26-Mission Encounter-
Smith Mountain Lake, 521-1155.~~
- ♦ ~~July 26-31-All God's Children-
Camp, 245-9591.~~
- ♦ ~~August 9-14-All God's Children-
Camp, 245-9591.~~
- ♦ September 9--VAUMC Annual
Conference, Online, 521-1134.
- ♦ August 29-September 7,
2021--General Conference,
Minneapolis, MN, 521-1134.
- ♦ November 10-12, 2021--Jurisdictional
Conference, Lake Junaluska NC,
521-1134. ♦