



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

## Navigating Worship in the Pandemic at Beulah UMC

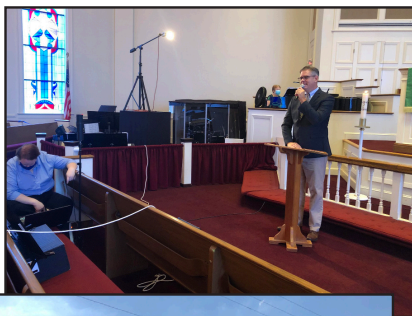
Navigating the pandemic has taken considerable prayer, discernment, and flexibility. Here is how we adapted our worship at Beulah UMC, 6930 Hopkins Road, N Chesterfield, throughout this season.

Before the pandemic, we used a Mevo camera to broadcast our services on Facebook Live, which allowed us to quickly transition to online-only worship when that became our new reality in March. Wanting to enhance our online worship we decided to record our services on Thursdays and have done so since Easter. Recording the service enabled us to add text and graphics, led to a variety of music in worship, and allowed us to better interact with those worshipping online. We continue to provide this online worship option via Facebook and YouTube for our congregation.

With new guidelines in May allowing for drive-in worship, we began planning for that form of in-person worship. Beulah's large, rectangular parking lot provided us plenty of space (approximately 80 spots available) to accommodate drive-in worship. We changed our worship time to 9:00 a.m. to avoid the summer heat and any conflicts with our 11:00 a.m. online worship. We assembled a volunteer crew for parking, sound, and set-up which began at 8:00 a.m. Drive-in worship began on June 7 and we transitioned to in-person worship in the sanctuary on August 9. We plan to use drive-in worship for celebrating Communion on the first Sunday of each month instead of our in-person sanctuary service.

In preparation for in-person worship in the sanctuary, we diligently read over the TAM (Technical Assistance Manual, <http://doc.vaumc.org/News2020/TAM.pdf>), contacted pioneer churches, and brainstormed needed adjustments to our building for the return of worship. The next steps included having our plan thoroughly vetted by our Healthy Church Team and the District Superintendent as well as ordering any necessary signs and supplies. Finally, we trained our greeters and ushers for our return to worship in the sanctuary. It took nearly a month of planning and communication to make sure our return would be as safe as possible. Through God's grace, we are worshipping in new, safe ways during this unprecedented time.

*Submitted by Rev. Jonathan Poarch, associate pastor, Beulah UMC, 275-2325.*



## Book of Reports Available

The 2020 Book of Reports is now available for online viewing. Printed copies are currently in the mail to clergy and lay members.

The 2020 Annual Conference will take place on Saturday, September 19, in a virtual, one-day format. Currently, you can find information about Kits, view photos and video from the ordination service, and more on the conference website, [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org). As information is received, you will find the latest news about the event at [vaumc.org/ac2020/](http://vaumc.org/ac2020/). ♦

## UM Center Closings

The VAUMC Conference Center and the Richmond District Office will close at 1 p.m. on September 4 and remain closed on September 7 for the observance of Labor Day. ♦

## INSIDE

A Word from the Superintendent.....	2
Welcome New District Secretary .....	2
Prepare for Annual Conference .....	3
Opportunities .....	4



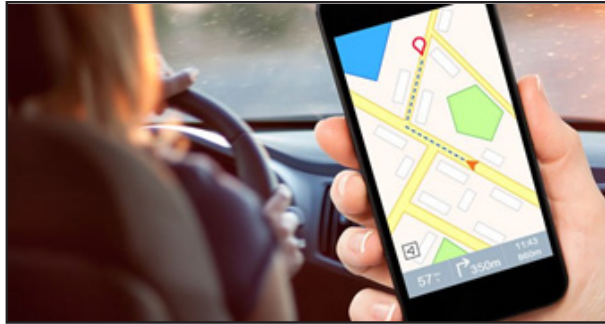
## Richmond District

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](mailto:RichmondDistrict@vaumc.org)

September 2020

Friends,

Do you remember the days before G.P.S. or before cell phone apps? How did we do it? We had a paper map with us in our cars and at our homes. While driving, one hand on the wheel, the other hand on the map, we checked the traffic and street names even while our spouse is asking us, "Honey, are you lost again?" Then, came Garmins or TomToms. And now, we use our cell phones, iPhone map, google maps, or Waze—thankfully, things are less stressful and more fun.



As we get ready for our charge conference, I am sure you have some questions—"Is it that time again? What do I need to prepare? What does our D.S. expect from us?" You have already received the agenda and the instructions. As you prepare, let me highlight this one thing: G.P.S. As the G.P.S. on our phone helps us move from one location to our destination, if we align ourselves to God, God Positioning System, then God will help us to move from where we are now to God's new future. And our discipleship journey will be fun and exciting! Therefore, I ask you, laity and clergy, to come together, pray, read God's word, and ask the Lord to guide you on the following.

1. Where have you seen God working in your church and the community this year?
2. Where would you like to see God work in your church and the community in the coming months and years?
3. How do you plan to get there from here? What are your plans?

Would you ask these three questions in terms of your

1. Worship—helping people to have a holy encounter with God,
2. Small Groups—helping people to grow in following Christ through accountability groups of Acts 2:37-37, and
3. Serving/ Mission—sending forth people into the world to serve in Christ's name, so that God's name be glorified and people may find new life through God.

Thank you for your prayers, time, and hard work that you are putting forth for this years' charge conference preparation.

Blessings,

Hyo Lee

## Welcome MaryKaye!

MaryKaye Cochran will begin as the Richmond District Executive Administrator on September 8.

She comes to us from the Conference Center for Congregational Excellence. The Center for Congregational Excellence is responsible for new faith community development and church revitalization. Prior to joining the VA Conference staff, MaryKaye served as the Director of Discipleship at Woodlake UMC for 12 years. She has also been on staff at Farmville UMC and Duncan Memorial UMC. Prior to her positions in Christian Education, she worked at Longwood College (now University) for 12 years. MaryKaye has degrees from The College of William and Mary and Bowling Green State University (Ohio). MaryKaye is married to the Rev. Larry Cochran who serves as the senior pastor at Belmont UMC in Richmond. ♦



## 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](mailto:RichmondDS@vaumc.org). ♦

## Prayers for...

- ♦ Abby Dotson, daughter of Rev. Beth Givens, Welborne UMC, who is recovering from August 10 jaw surgery.
- ♦ The family of Marilyn Acosta, widow of Rev. William H. Acosta, who died August 18.
- ♦ Rev. Larry Tingle, retired, who had knee replacement on August 3. ♦





## Members must register for Annual Conference 2020

All Annual Conference clergy and lay members need to register from September 2- September 9, to participate fully in the virtual September 19 session. The conference office appreciates the annual conference body meeting this deadline to streamline getting log-in and credentialing information for all official Virginia Annual Conference members from the Annual Conference IT service management vendor, Option Technology.

On September 2, all Annual Conference clergy and lay members will receive an email prompting them to register for the conference. In the email will be a link where members will enter their names and record their attendance for the September 19 virtual Annual Conference session.

Active clergy are required to register with their vaumc.org email addresses. Lay members need to register with the email address they have on file with the conference office. This is a firm deadline and all members must register within this timeframe or risk not being able to fully participate in the virtual Annual Conference session. ♦

## Service of Commissioning

The Center for Clergy Excellence-- The Service of Commissioning is scheduled for Friday, September 11 at 11 a.m. This service may be viewed only via livestream due to COVID restrictions. Find information for the livestream link and bulletin on the conference website at [www.vaumc.org/ClergyExcellence](http://www.vaumc.org/ClergyExcellence) in the coming weeks. The Center for Clergy Excellence hopes you will join in worship as the new provisional class is celebrated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [clergyexcellence@vaumc.org](mailto:clergyexcellence@vaumc.org). ♦

## How to Prepare for Annual Conference 2020

There are a number of ways that members can prepare for the Annual Conference session on September 19.

1. Annual Conference Orientation: This prerecorded video will be released to the district offices for district training events and be available for conference-wide use at <https://vaumc.org/ac2020/> on Friday, September 4. This video will have: a greeting from Bishop Lewis; instructions on how members and visitors to the session can access the event; an explanation of member participation and voting; an overview of the agenda; and reports from Pensions and the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA).
2. Live Annual Conference 2020 Q&A: Still have questions or concerns following the September 4 orientation? Join the Rev. Dr. Ted Smith, conference director of Connectional Ministries, and Bryan Compton, conference IT manager, to answer any questions on Tuesday, September 8 from 7-8 p.m. Questions may be submitted beforehand to [ac2020@vaumc.org](mailto:ac2020@vaumc.org). Access the event at <https://livestream.com/vaumc/ac2020>. John Fuller, VUMPI executive director, and David Dommissie, conference treasurer, will also take part to answer any questions from their respective reports.
3. Practice Annual Conference sessions: Bryan Compton, conference IT manager, will hold two practice sessions for Annual Conference on Monday, September 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday, September 18 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Members are highly encouraged to take part in one or both of these sessions. Links to the practice sessions will be released to members' emails either the day before or the day of the practice sessions by Option Technology, the Annual Conference IT service management vendor. Please log on early to join in. If you have technical issues during the practice sessions, please email [helpAC2020@vaumc.org](mailto:helpAC2020@vaumc.org) to get assistance so you are ready and able to participate during the September 19 session.

On the conference website, view a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to learn more about our Annual Conference 2020 session. ♦



## Disaster Recovery Efforts

In a recent meeting of the Virginia Conference Disaster Response Committee, an update was provided about the Staunton flood damage and property damage to homes in the region of Lancaster County, Westmoreland County, and other areas in the Upper and Lower Northern Neck after the severe flooding on August 8.

The primary early response ministry in Staunton continues to involve assessment of residential property damage and assisting homeowners in cleaning up the flood damage. Early response assistance in the Upper Northern Neck area also involves ongoing assessment working with local authorities and other early response organizations. Early reports of the Upper Northern Neck damage indicate significant damage to residential homes that will require both the short-term earlier response and long-term recovery assistance.

Looking to help?

1. Pray for the communities impacted by the storms
2. Contact the Rappahannock River and Staunton District offices to confirm their readiness to receive volunteers, or
3. Consider making a donation to the VAUMC Advance Special #5037 Disaster Response to assist in these efforts. Remittances for the Treasurer's Office should be mailed to P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058.

Learn more about conference disaster response at <https://vaumc.org/disasterresponse/>. You can also follow Virginia Conference Disaster Response on Facebook for the latest updates. ♦

## Lay Servant Schedule

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



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. ♦

## Headphones for Students

As students get back to learning this fall, a Henrico church is working to help some of the youngest members of the community. Discovery UMC, 13000 Gayton Road, has partnered with Henrico County Public Schools to collect a specific piece of equipment students will need for online classes this year. Click on the following link for the complete story: [https://www.nbc12.com/2020/08/27/henrico-church-collecting-headphones-earbuds-students/?fbclid=IwAR1Mv8Jj2CgXVBBWuSJT ER\\_F4EfseQ8jNzzyHR9sQvAWB0WHbwY-QuhqPzM](https://www.nbc12.com/2020/08/27/henrico-church-collecting-headphones-earbuds-students/?fbclid=IwAR1Mv8Jj2CgXVBBWuSJT ER_F4EfseQ8jNzzyHR9sQvAWB0WHbwY-QuhqPzM). ♦



## 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](mailto:RichmondDistrict@vaumc.org)

Sharma D. Lewis

Hyo J. Lee

Susan Petrey

Area Bishop

District Superintendent

Administrative Assistant,

Web Administrator

Maria Maxwell

Tina Gudgel

Susan Custer

Scotty Doyle

Dann Ladd

Bill Chaffin

Bessie Owens

Coordinator, Next Level Innovations

District Treasurer

District Lay Leader

District President, UMW

District President, UMM

District Ministry of Scouting Coord.

Director, Lay Servant Ministries

We're on the web at:  
[www.richmonddistrictumc.org](http://www.richmonddistrictumc.org)

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



COME ZOOM WITH US!

# 2020 LAY SERVANT ACADEMY

Virtual Training for Trying Times



SAT. NOV. 14, 8:45AM-4:00PM | COST \$30

**COURSES OFFERED: I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY; ON-LINE WORSHIP; OR OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES**

These courses provide renewal credit for Certified Lay Ministers.

Clergy are invited to participate as we strengthen  
clergy-laity team efforts.

**Register by Nov. 6 at [www.vaumc.org/layservanttraining](http://www.vaumc.org/layservanttraining)**

Questions? Contact Tianna, [tiannad@arcolachurch.org](mailto:tiannad@arcolachurch.org)

## District Opportunities

**All Richmond District events have been  
canceled until further notice**

- ◆ September 2-9--Registration for Annual Conference, 521-1134.
- ◆ September 4--Conference-wide Annual Conference Orientation on-line, 521-1134.
- ◆ September 11--Service of Commissioning, on-line, 521-1126.
- ◆ September 14--Annual Conference Practice Session, 521-1134.
- ◆ September 18--Annual Conference Practice Session, 521-1134.
- ◆ September 19--VAUMC Annual Conference, Online, 521-1134.
- ◆ November 14--Lay Servant Academy 2020, on-line, 521-1134.
- ◆ August 29-September 7, 2021--General Conference, Minneapolis, MN, 521-1134.
- ◆ November 10-12, 2021--Jurisdictional Conference, Lake Junaluska NC, 521-1134. ♦