

JULY 2023

DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Newsletter of the Three Notch'd District



In Times of Transition: Moving & Another Year of Appointment

By Rev. Hyo J. Lee, Ph.D., District Superintendent

The last Wednesday of June has traditionally been our clergy moving day. I pray that, as all the clergy and their families move, their moving goes smoothly. At the same time, to all our clergy, whether we move or continue, our tradition has been in United Methodism that all clergy are appointed from July through June every year.

As I was pondering on this and doing my morning devotional, Paul's letter to the Romans grabbed my attention. In the opening chapter of his letter, he made it clear about who he is, his call and God's mission for him.

"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son." (Romans 1:1-3a NRSVUE).

Three things are relevant for us. First, he identified himself as "a servant of Christ Jesus." If you would recall your intro to Greek class, *doulos* meant "a slave" rather than "a servant." And a slave, depending on to whom s/he belongs made a world of difference. Some were cruel and others were kind, even like loving, adoptive parents. Think about this-- Paul viewed himself as the one who belongs to Christ and is to do Christ's work.

Next, he shared his call in saying, "called to be an apostle." Imagine the criticisms, false accusations, beatings, betrayals, shipwrecks, and hunger that he went through. Despite all this, he kept on going like the bunny of the energizer battery commercial. He was like that because he had a crystal-clear sense of his call grounded in Christ.

Along with this, he knew what God called him for—his mission—being "set apart for the gospel of God." He experienced and believed the good news of salvation came through Christ's death and resurrection (1:4). To proclaim Christ died and rose because he loved Paul and all the world, Paul gave himself fully to offering the gospel to the Gentiles, women and men, and slaves and free, to all.

As we move and start another appointment year, how can we, along with Paul, remember our own identity in Christ Jesus, and our call as the sent and appointed ones by God, and our mission to offer the gospel of salvation to all? How can we seek God's empowerment through the Spirit, so that God may be exalted through you and your ministry, and so that the lost and the hurting of the world may find God's healing grace through you and your church's ministry?

I pray the Lord bless you and keep you and be gracious to you at every step of your ministry.

In the Lord,

This issue:

Message from our District Superintendent

PAGE 01

Pastoral Transitions, Cluster VBS

PAGE 02

Annual Conference Report, General Conference & the Christmas Covenant, November Bloodmobile

PAGE 03

Invitation to UWF, Mission Encounter, Job Opportunity

PAGE 04

Lay Servant Training Opportunities, District Website Project, Important Dates

PAGE 05





July 2023 Pastoral Transitions

Goodbye and Welcome!

We say goodbye and Godspeed to the following clergy who transitioned to a different district on July 1:

- Josette Franklin, Greenwood-Laurel Park, to Roberts Memorial (NOVA District)
- Richard Grendahl, Bethesda, to Lyndhurst (Valley Ridge District)
- Nickie Moreno Howard, New Song, to The Garden (Coastal Virginia District)
- Dan Kim, Gum Spring, to Trinity (Isle of Wight - Mission Rivers District)
- Eunji Kim, Fairmount, to Epworth-Mountain Valley (Valley Ridge District)
- Hyunho Lee, Laurel Hill, to White Memorial (Valley Ridge District)
- Hung Su Lim, Trinity (Rd), to St. John's (Buena Vista - Valley Ridge Dist.)
- Samuel Plymale, Mt. Moriah, to St. Mark's (Botetourt - Valley Ridge District)
- Archana Samuel, Sherbourne, to Wesley (Hampton - Missions River District)

We welcome the following clergy who moved to or within our district:

- Daniel Andersen to Fairmount and Highland Springs
- Yoon Seok Choi to Emmaus at Stratford Hills
- Daniel Guenther to Trinity (Richmond)
- Ricardo Haynes to Sherbourne and Walmsley Boulevard
- Darcey Johnson to Shady Grove (Mechanicsville)
- TaeWon Kang to Greenwood-Laurel Park
- Benjamin Kent to Bethesda and Westover
- David McWilliams to Zion
- Aaron Miller to Trinity (Richmond)
- Gretchen Nelson to Gum Spring
- Bayo Ogungbade to Reveille
- Sarah Sealand to River Road
- Tim Stark to New Bethel (South Fluvanna Charge)
- Hosub Sung to Little Fork Circuit
- Jeremy Vest to New Song
- Michael Whaley to Mt. Pisgah

We also congratulate the following clergy on their retirement:

- Doug Crockett from Highland Springs
- Art and Norma Jean Fellows from Little Fork Circuit
- Tommy Freeman from Westover
- Jay Kelchner from Mt. Pisgah
- Chul Ki Kim from Emmaus at Stratford Hills
- Deborah Koontz from Zion
- Wayne Snead from Shady Grove (Mechanicsville)

Thank you for keeping these individuals and their families in your prayers!



Hero Hotline: VBS 2023

by Rev. Amy Grant

The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor” (Ecc. 4:9).

At its heart, United Methodism has always been connectional. Our “connectional ties bind us together in faith and service in our global witness”[BOD, p. 54]. Within the Three Notch’d District, our connectional ties are strengthened through clusters in which congregations are encouraged to support one another and experiment with cooperative ministries and missions to better reach and serve the community.

In Fluvanna County, three churches did this by offering a joint Vacation Bible School. The week of June 19th, Salem UMC, Cunningham UMC, and Palmyra UMC worked together to put on Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God! By working together, the churches were able to offer a better VBS experience with a larger group of children and volunteers.

As part of their Hero Hotline VBS, the children were encouraged to bring in food items for the Fluvanna Food Pantry. To the delight of the VBS participants, all three pastors agreed to take a “pie in the face” if the collection goal of 150 pounds was reached. At the closing celebration, the children learned they had collected 163 pounds of food! As promised, all three pastors took a “pie in the face” to the cheers and delight of the children and adults.

Pictured left: Revs. Rebecca Trovalli-Cook (Salem), Sung Yoo (Palmyra), and Amy Grant (Cunningham)



United as One in MISSION
2023 VAUMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2023 Annual Conference Report

by Elizabeth Farrell, Three Notch'd District Lay Leader

The 2023 Virginia Annual Conference was held at the Berglund Center in Roanoke from June 15-17 with our new bishop, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson presiding. The key scripture was Acts 1:8b. A positive feeling existed throughout the conference. Some of the high-lights included:

- The impactful sermons by Bishop Hauptert-Johnson ("If you want to find Jesus, don't look in your churches, don't look inside the walls, go out to those who are suffering and burdened and you will find him there. Christ is waiting for us outside the walls to be salt, and light, and yeast. And the beauty of those images is it only takes a little bit to change the whole thing. So go find Jesus outside the walls.")
- The inspiring sermon by Rev. Gary Miller ("It's time for us to get up, rise, and know we can have life. It's time to celebrate who we are. God is not through with us yet. God has a mighty work for us to do as a people.")
- The laity address by Martha Stokes (we are all called, but we forget to respond; we are all ministers) and the Laity Heart-to-Heart Conversation, with over 500 laity in attendance
- The Bible Study, Mission 101, by Rev. Seungsoo "RJ" Jun, Associate Director of Serving (We are invited to be part of God's mission. Are we willing to be obedient to God's call? What is God asking you and your church to do? Is your church a blessing to the community?) This Bible study is located on the VAUMC website and can be used at your church.
- The uplifting worship music provided by Rev. Drew Willson, Jim Bennett, and accompanists
- The introduction of two youth who will be serving for two years as Global Mission Fellows
- The presentation by the Cambodian missionaries
- Two new faith communities have been established. Fifty-nine new faith communities have been planted in the Conference since 2008, of which more than 70% remain active.
- The fixing of Clergy appointments for the coming year
- The many opportunities to participate in missions and fellowship. 20,000 meals were packed for Rise Against Hunger; 3,170 UMCOR feminine hygiene kits were assembled; and 73 people donated at the Red Cross Blood Drive. The Missions Social and Game Night were two of the several social activities offered.

Please visit www.vaumc.org/ac2023/ to read more about the 2023 Annual Conference, obtain additional information about the VAUMC and the various ministries and missions that your church can participate in, and discover great resources offered to help your church.

There seems to be an increase in negativity, anger, and hopelessness in the world. But we can help change this if we do our part and be Jesus' witnesses in our community and to the world as noted in Acts 1:8b. Jesus has commanded each of us to do this. May our prayer be that we become more like Jesus, obey Him, and share the good news and the hope we have in Jesus with others.



General Conference 2024

by Elizabeth Farrell

The Virginia Annual Conference did not need to vote on delegates during the 2023 Annual Conference session. Our delegates to General Conference to be held in April 2024 presented their report, which is their unanimous endorsement of the Christmas Covenant Regionalization Plan. This plan would transform the existing Central Conferences into Regional Conferences and create a United States Regional Conference. It would increase the ability of each Regional Conference to adapt the Book of Discipline to fit its missional context and create a more equitable structure for our global church.

The members were given time to review the delegation's FAQs and other information on the conference website. After some discussion the following day, the Virginia Annual Conference voted and affirmed the delegation's endorsement. We invite you to learn more about the Christmas Covenant legislation by visiting <https://www.christmascovenant.com/pa/gecc>.



Asbury UMC (Richmond) is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive in November. We need 30 volunteers to sign up for the Blood Drive before the Red Cross sets a date for the drive. Please consider being a blood donor. Call Linda Porter at 804-674-5220 or email lindiaporter1948@gmail.com to become a donor. Thank you in advance for helping us reach our goal.



United
Women
in Faith

Invitation to Join UWF

by Linda Porter
Three Notch'd District UWF President



Mission
Encounter

First, I want to thank you for all you have done for the UMW/UWF over the past years. Working together as women of faith who strongly believe in the purpose of UMW/UWF, we have made a difference and will continue to make a difference in the lives of women, children, and youth in our communities and around the world.

If you are part of a disaffiliating or closing church in our Virginia Conference, I want to invite you to continue to be a part of UWF. We have much work to do as we continue to be God's hands and feet in the world today. With God's help, we can continue to share God's love through United Women in Faith.

There are several ways women can be a part of United Women in Faith:

- 1) Local non-United Methodist church units--Women who are members of a church that was formerly a United Methodist church may organize a unit of United Women in Faith. Leaders should be elected and the president need not be a member of The United Methodist Church.
- 2) Charge or cluster unit--A unit may be formed by women from more than one church (including churches that have left The United Methodist Church) when the number of women from a single church is too small to organize as a structure of UWF. The president of a charge or cluster unit will be a member of The United Methodist Church, unless the charge or cluster unit is organized among non-United Methodist churches, in which case the president need not be a member of The United Methodist Church.
- 3) A District unit--A District unit may be formed by women from different churches (including churches or units that have left The United Methodist Church) who choose to meet in locations other than a local church, such as a college or university campus, retirement community, online community or local business area. The president of a district unit need not be a member of The United Methodist Church.
- 4) A District member--A woman may become a district member if there is no active unit in her church, if there is no possibility of continuing or reorganizing a unit, or if she is a member of another denomination. Such membership must be authorized by the district leadership team.
- 5) All-access member--All-Access" National Membership Option enables women to join United Women in Faith via the new website and participate online or in person at local units or larger events.

These ways of joining United Women in Faith allow women to continue to be a part of God's mission to women, children and youth and allow them to put hope, faith, and love in action.

Scotty Doyle, Three Notch'd District Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator, and I are available to meet with women who want to continue to be involved with United Women in Faith and are seeking direction in how to make this happen.

Again, I thank you for your past commitment to United Women in Faith and pray that you will continue to be a part of United Women in Faith through one of the options that are available to you.

In God's love and peace,
Linda Porter
lindiaporter1948@gmail.com
804-674-5220

Mission Encounter 2023

On Zoom or In-person
at Good Shepherd UMC & the VA
United Methodist Conference Center
July 28-30, 2023

Registration is open until July 15 and can be found at: <https://vaumc.org/ME>

1. Living the Kin-Dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation. Instructors: Rev. Jason Stanley, Rev. Josette Franklin, Rev. JaeHaeng Choi, Rev. Ileana Rosario
2. Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action. Instructor: Rev. Pat Watkins
3. God's Mission and the Spirituality of Relationship. Instructor: Rev. Denise Honeycutt

Mission Encounter is open to clergy, laity, men and women. Financial aid is available for first-time attendees.



District Revitalizer Position

The Three Notch'd District is seeking a qualified individual to serve in the District Revitalizer role vacated by Maria Maxwell in May. Any interested lay or clergy person may apply. A position description is available [here](#).

Interested persons should submit a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references. If known, please also share your top five strengths from Strengthfinders and your Enneagram number.

Applications should be emailed to threenotchddlb@vaumc.org.

Should you need additional information, please contact the District Office, tdistrict@vaumc.org, 804-521-1124.



District Website Project

The Three Notch'd District recognizes the need for churches to be a searchable entity in their community. A website serves as a 24/7 hub for community members to access information about your church, its services, and its resources at any time and from any place. For this reason, the Three Notch'd District is launching a project to ensure that all district churches have a simple website that can be easily maintained. If your church does not have a website, we want to work with you! You can fill out this [form](#) and we will be in touch with you this summer. If you have any questions, please contact the District Office, TNDistrict@vaumc.org, 804-521-1124. Thanks in advance for your help with this project!

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

Rev. Sue Hauptert-Johnson - Area Bishop

Rev. Hyo J. Lee, Ph.D. - District Superintendent

Church Revitalizer - vacant

Rev. Jim Chandler - Strategic Consultant

MaryKaye Cochran - Executive Administrator

Lay Leader - Elizabeth Farrell

Associate Lay Leaders - Susan Custer, John Glass, Dian McNaught, William & Linda Stead

Treasurer - Jennifer Honeycutt

Pamela Anderson - District Community Outreach Youth Ministry Coordinator (formerly Scouting Ministry)

Andy Glascott - Youth Coordinator (Richmond area)

Rebecca Wagner - Youth Coordinator (Charlottesville area)

Linda Porter - United Women in Faith President

Congregational Care Ministry Specialization Webinar: July 21-22, 2023

The healing ministry of Jesus gives us the example that care is at the heart of the church. As a Certified Lay Minister you can receive training for a specialization through the Discipleship Ministries of the UMC in Congregational Care which can help you create and revitalize your care ministry. This two day training gives you tools and resources for your care ministry no matter what size the church including prayer ministry, boundaries, spiritual guidance, visitation, death/dying and care team development. During the webinar, you will experience uplifting worship and renewal for your soul.

Please check out the link at

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_g4oLmqJ8T4CqTUKe_KR9fA#/registration

Virtual Lay Servant Academy: August 18-19, 2023

The next Virginia Annual Conference Lay Servant Academy will occur virtually on August 18-19, 2023. Online course offerings will be

- United Methodist Heritage (Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, instructor)
- Basic Course (Richard Speirs, instructor)
- Spiritual Gifts (Joseph Plemmons, instructor)
- Leading Well in Conflict Transformation (Sarah Calvert, instructor)
- Called to Preach! (Nathan Decker, instructor)
- Introduction to Simplified Accountable Structure (Instructor TBD)
- Certified Lay Minister Orientation (Joanna Dietz and Jennifer Robinson-O'Brien, instructors).

Cost is \$35 for all courses except CLM Orientation, which is \$15. For more information, follow this link: <https://vaumc.org/layservantacademy/>. To register, click [here](#).

Contact Tianna Durbin, Lay Servant Academy Director (tiannad@arcolachurch.org) if you have questions.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

NOTE: All dates are on the District Calendar at www.threenotchd.org/calendar/

July 3-10 - District Office Closed

July 25 - New District Clergy Orientation

July 26 - District Leadership Board & District Board of Church Location and Building Training

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THREE NOTCH'D
DISTRICT
VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH