

DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Newsletter of the Three Notch'd District

After the General Conference: Time to Get to Work

BY REV. HYO J. LEE, PH.D., DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

The much-anticipated General Conference (GC) is over as of May 3, 2024. First of all, I thank all the delegates and bishops for their hard work. Also, I thank all the laity and clergy for your prayers and for sending prayer shawls to the delegates so that this GC could be a God-honoring Christian conference. I believe God indeed heard our prayers.

The key result of the GC is often referred to as the three Rs: Regionalization, Removal of Restricted Languages, and Revision of the Social Principle. I believe that through this, we affirmed who we are as a people who respect and welcome all to God's love and grace. The vote taken on May 3 shows that whether one is progressive, centrist, or traditionalist, the UMC is a big tent where people of diverse faith and conscience can serve the same God in mutual respect, humility, and above all unity.

- By a vote of 474 to 206, delegates approved striking from church law the chargeable offenses “practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies.”...
- By a vote of 479 to 203, delegates adopted the statement: “No clergy at any time may be required or compelled to perform, or prohibited from performing, any marriage, union, or blessing of any couple, including same-sex couples. All clergy have the right to exercise and preserve their conscience when requested to perform any marriage, union, or blessing of any couple.” <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/united-methodists-remove-same-sex-wedding-ban>

Recalling the highlights—Three Rs, sacramental authority to deacons, recognizing deaconesses and home missionaries, Compass (clergy retirement plan change), removal of Par. 2553 and provision for reentrance, episcopal and General Board revision, and global mission commitment—it got me thinking. The matters that have been dividing us have been resolved (though there is still some work to be done), and we know clearly who we are. It is time for us to fully devote ourselves to the mission of the church. We have no more excuses, such as “Well, COVIDs, Disaffiliations, BSA, or upcoming General Conference.” It is time for us to share the love of God with this hurting world and with all of God's creation. As Christ commanded us, let us go and make disciples of Jesus Christ by offering them the free and unfailing redeeming love of God that claims us as God's beloved and new creations.

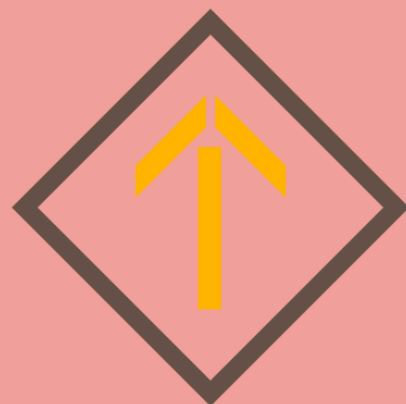
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THREE NOTCH'D
DISTRICT
VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



2024 VAUMC Annual Conference

The 2024 VAUMC Annual Conference will be held June 20-22 in Hampton, VA. For the agenda and other important information, please visit www.vaumc.org/ac2024/.

Important Dates:

- Three Notch'd District Orientation to Annual Conference, Tuesday, June 4, 7:00-8:00pm - Click [here](#) for the Zoom meeting link.
- Three Notch'd District Ice Cream Social, Thursday, June 20, 5:00-6:00pm at the Bluebird Gap Farm, 60 Pine Chapel Road, Hampton (just two miles from the Hampton Roads Convention Center). We have reserved the Powhatan Pavilion. We are hosting the Kona Ice Truck and we want to see all our district clergy and laity and families there! Wear your Hawaiian shirt if you have one! Stop by before you go out for dinner Thursday evening and grab a FREE cup of Kona Ice. There will also be cornhole, bubbles and more!



Kits for Conference

JUNE 15 COLLECTION DAY

Our district will have two collections sites on Sat. June 15. ****Please do not bring Kits to the 2024 Annual Conference at Hampton.****

10:00am - 2:00pm at Culpeper UMC, 1233 Oaklawn Drive, Culpeper. Pavilion in the upper parking lot.

9:00am - 12:00noon at Lakeside UMC, 2333 Hilliard Road, Henrico. Garage adjacent to church parking lot.

Please note that the collection sites are receiving kits only. Any canned goods collected by your church should be donated directly to a local food pantry.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is currently recommending the following kits to be assembled:

- Menstrual Hygiene Kits - complete instructions may be found at: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-menstrual-hygiene-kit/>. Shipping cost: \$2/kit.
- Hygiene Kits - complete instructions may be found at: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-hygiene-kit/>. Shipping cost: \$2/kit covers shipping plus toothpaste.
- Cleaning Kits - complete instructions may be found at: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-cleaning-kit/>. Shipping cost: \$3/kit covers shipping plus sponges.

Please note: If your church is collecting funds to pay for shipping costs, please write one check to VAUMC, Fund #5041, and mail to: Treasurer, VAUMC, PO Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058. ****Do not leave cash or checks with your kits. Collections sites will not accept cash or checks.****

Thank you in advance for giving to the "least of these"!

2024 Annual Conference Offering

For our Annual Conference offering this year, we are supporting two important initiatives. First, we are supporting the ongoing connectional work with our VAUMC Partnerships of Hope countries: Brazil, Mozambique, Cambodia, Haiti, Vietnam, and Native American ministries. Second, we are giving towards our conference-wide RIP Medical Debt Campaign to help eliminate medical debt in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our goal is to raise \$250,000 that would go towards eliminating the \$25 million of medical debt that continues to hurt the most vulnerable in Virginia. Checks may be written to VAUMC, Fund #5500. For more information about Partnerships of Hope, please visit: <https://vaumc.org/partnerships-of-hope/>. For more info about RIP Medical Debt, please visit: <https://www.ripmedicaldebt.org/>.



Samaritan Program

The Samaritan Program is the benevolent program for Pinnacle Living residents who have been blessed with longevity and have outlived their financial resources, through no fault of their own.

You offer a sense of security and a feeling of peace each time you give to the Samaritan Program. The residents who depend upon your support have an average age of 96 years. Eighty percent of those receiving financial support are women.

At the Virginia Annual Conference last year, it was agreed that each church be encouraged to take an offering for the Samaritan Program between Mother's Day (May 12th) and Father's Day (June 16th). Will you be counted in the participating churches helping us meet the \$469,684 need?

The top ten participating churches will be recognized as a Samaritan Award-winning church. You will receive an article honoring the congregation's gift that can be included in your church newsletter and other communications. Also, the church's district will be notified with an article for publication as well. The award-winning churches will be recognized in the 2025 Virginia Annual Conference Book of Reports in the Pinnacle Living report.

Resources to help promote The Samaritan Program can be found at www.PINNACLELIVING.ORG/SAMARITAN-PROGRAM. If you have any questions, please contact Charles Wickham, Director of Donor Development, at cwickham@pinnacleliving.org or 804 474 8724.



ERT Training May 18

CHRIST UMC, FAIRFAX STATION

Emergency Response Team Certification Training will be held Saturday, May 18, 8:00am-4:00pm at Christ UMC, 7600 West Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Please email Kim Hood, talknone@yahoo.com to register.



Rise Against Hunger

SAINT ANDREW'S UMC, RICHMOND

A Rise Against Hunger Experience will be held this Saturday, May 11, at Saint Andrew's UMC, 9801 Fort King Road, Richmond. Packing meals will be 10:00am-12:00noon. To sign up, click [here](#).



Faith Night At the Diamond

Faith Night at the Diamond will be Saturday, May 18, and will feature one of our own, Nancy-Jane McClain, daughter of Rev. Bryan McClain, Providence UMC (Richmond) and his wife Stephanie. Nancy-Jane will sing "God Bless America" during the seventh inning Stretch. Nancy-Jane has a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from George Mason University. Nancy-Jane has served as the soprano section leader for St. Thomas UMC (Manassas) and currently is working for Greenspring Music Academy. Doors open at 5:00pm and the game starts at 6:05pm. For more information, visit <https://www.milb.com/richmond/tickets/groups/theme-nights>



Get Ready. . .TND Rebranded June 1!

The Three Notch'd District website is being reworked into a more user friendly, efficient format, and with updates you have asked for. Our Facebook page is being opened up to the public. Also, find more about us on Instagram, Threads, X, TikTok, etc. Communications are key to our mission of making disciples – by being a Christian Influencer we are opening channels to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and connect folks to our local churches. It is critical to keep your information updated on Unity Web and let the district know of any outdated information on our website or social media. If anyone finds us on social media, we want to point them to you!

We want your feedback! What resources do you need on the website? What information would you like communicated on social media? In what ways would you like to partner with the district to spread the word about local churches? Drop an idea at TNDSocial@vaumc.org. Thanks in advance for your feedback!



Save the Date!

The Virginians will be performing at Trinity UMC (Richmond), 903 Forest Avenue, Richmond, on Sunday, July 14, at 2:00pm. Refreshments will be available and a love offering will be taken.

Keeping Pace

The latest news from The Pace Center for Campus and Community Ministry (Richmond): Last month, a group of Pace Students spent a hot Saturday planting potatoes at Sophia Farms in Chesterfield, VA. 104 Ministries, Inc hosted the event. Over 30 people attended, including Pace students, Trinity United Methodist Church (Chester) members and the Chinese Baptist Church of Petersburg's youth group. The day was a great success with a lot of fruitful connections and opportunities. "I learned that it can be valuable to get comfortable with being uncomfortable in certain situations," reported Dhanya, a student at VCU and a participant of many volunteer opportunities offered by Pace. "I found myself pushing through the heat and having initial trouble planting the potatoes." What kept Dhanya going was the helpful attitudes and cooperation of other participants. "I was able to contribute to a valuable cause, which I pride myself on."

For more news, you can subscribe to the Pace Monthly Newsletter [here](#).

For Wesley Foundation at UVA news, you can subscribe at: <https://www.wesleyatuva.org/new-here>

District Leadership

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Vitality Coordinator - Rev. Pam Anderson
Executive Administrator - MaryKaye Cochran
Lay Leader - Elizabeth Farrell
Associate Lay Leaders - George Batten, Susan Custer, Dian McNaught, William & Linda Stead
Treasurer - Tina Gudgel
Youth Coordinator (Richmond area) - Andy Glascott
Youth Coordinator (Charlottesville area) - Rebecca Wagner
UWF President - Linda Porter

NOTE: The District Staff works remotely. Please feel free to schedule an appointment.

