



## The Heart of Ecclesiology

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

A young pastor was once venting to an elderly clergyperson about all the heartaches he was facing in ministry. After patiently listening, the wise elder remarked, “You know what? You don’t have an ecclesiology—that’s your problem.”

We just had Announcement Sunday. I’m sure some are excited, while others may feel uncertain or even disappointed. Perhaps you found yourself thinking, “The bishop and cabinet are sending that pastor?” or “They’re sending me there?”

Instead of dwelling on negative thoughts or doubts, what if we paused to rethink, believe, and give thanks to the Lord for what the Church truly is—the body of Christ, with Christ as the head, and each of us as members of His body? That’s the heart of ecclesiology—the doctrine of the Church—as taught in Ephesians.

Paul, in reference to God’s surpassing power working through the risen Christ, prayed:

*“18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,*

*19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.” (Ephesians 1:18–19)*

And later he wrote:

*“20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,*

*21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20–21)*

From this, we affirm:

1. Wherever we are sent, and wherever our church is located, Christ indwells our churches with resurrection power and authority to redeem the world.
2. Not any charismatic pastor or influential member, but Jesus Christ is the true head of the Church—and this is our hope and confidence.
3. The power of God is already at work within us—no matter who our pastor is, or where we are sent to serve.

As many of you prepare for pastoral transitions, and as all of us begin a new appointment cycle on July 1, I pray that you will know and serve God in the amazing grace, power, and love that is already at work in and through you.



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# 150-Year Celebration at Greenwood UMC

SUNDAY, MAY 18

BISHOP SUE HAUPERT-JOHNSON PREACHING

On Sunday, May 18, Greenwood UMC, located at 10040 Greenwood Road, Glen Allen, is marking 150 years since they were founded. The theme is "Celebrating Our Roots, Cultivating Our Future" and will feature worship at 11:00am with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson preaching and District Superintendent Rev. Hyo Lee presiding at Table. Immediately following the service, there will be a potluck luncheon with entertainment. All are welcome. Please RSVP to [admin@gumcva.org](mailto:admin@gumcva.org).



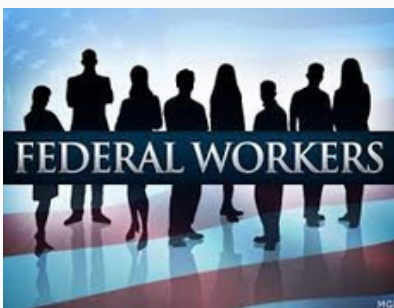
## AGCC Needs You!

For 26 years, All God's Children Camp (AGCC) has been a blessing to hundreds of children with incarcerated parents. The cover photo is from last summer's camp. This year's camps are scheduled June 15-20 and August 10-15 at Camp Chanco. Mentors are still needed for both weeks as well as van transportation on June 15 and 20. If you are interested in being a part of this incredible ministry, please email [lorismith@vaumc.org](mailto:lorismith@vaumc.org).



## Support for Federal Workers

Churches may be looking for tangible ways to assist federal workers in their church or wider community who are navigating a new vocational landscape. Following a Zoom webinar Bishop Sue held in March, those present shared ways that churches could assist persons who are experiencing physical, mental, spiritual and financial challenges due to these federal layoffs.



Several practical responses/ideas were shared, including: • Purchasing grocery and gas gift cards • Churches with preschools giving a month credit to families with federal workers • Providing facilities, such as shower, laundry facilities, for commuters

Local churches may choose to help with any of the following: • A gift card drive • A district resource sharing spiritual directors who can be a resource to individuals • Sharing information to refer to community resources such as food banks/ clothes closets so that district churches and clergy can work together and provide/share information about resources as needed.

Note: If churches opt to host a gift card drive, be aware of current scams that involve asking for gift cards in communications. Set a clear time for collection, be clear what gift cards will be accepted, how gift cards will be disbursed, who gift cards should be sent to, etc.

If your church decides to provide support, please let the District Office know.



## A Few Spaces Left - May 12 Deadline

Reveille UMC and Woodlake UMC invite you to join a team of other volunteers on a trip to Spruce Pine, in Western North Carolina, June 1-7. The team will support a variety of hurricane relief projects in the area. This is a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) coordinated trip. The trip fee of \$250 covers lodging, daily breakfast and dinner, and round-trip transportation from Richmond. Anyone age 18 and older can participate. Expected project work includes debris removal, demolition, and light construction. **The deadline to register is Monday, May 12.** For additional information and to register for the trip, visit <https://reveilleumc.org/ncmissiontrip>



## August 7 & 8 Global Leadership Summit

On August 7 & 8, the Three Notch'd District will be hosting a virtual showing of the 2025 Global Leadership Summit. Mark your calendar and plan to attend with a group from your church. More details will be shared soon.

# 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## June 11-14 in Roanoke

The 243rd Session of the Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference will be held in Roanoke June 11-14 at the Berglund Center.



## June 3 District Orientation

The Three Notch'd District will hold an Orientation to Annual Conference on Tuesday, June 3, 7:00pm, by Zoom. We will watch the Conference video together and then have Q & A with District Superintendent Hyo Lee and Rev. Jonathan Page, Director of Connection and Innovation.

## June 7 Kit Collection

The District will have two locations collecting Kits for Conference on Saturday, June 7:

10:00am-2:00pm - Culpeper UMC, 1233 Oaklawn Drive, Culpeper, VA 22701

&  
9:00am-12:00noon - Lakeside UMC, 2333 Hilliard Road, Richmond, VA 23228



For more information about kits, please visit: <https://threenotchd.org/events-directory/>

## June 13 UMM Breakfast & Other News

The United Methodist Men (UMM) will hold their Annual Meeting and Breakfast at Annual Conference, Friday, June 13, 7:00am, at Greene Memorial UMC, 402 Second Street, SW, Roanoke. Rev. Jay Carey, Living Waters District Superintendent, will be the speaker. The election and installation of officers will also be held. All men and their spouses are welcome. Email Bob Longworth, [dolral@aol.com](mailto:dolral@aol.com), to register.



A new program, "Knees@Noon", is a prayer initiative each Friday at Noon.

UMM are also continuing our "\$10.00 per man" campaign. They are asking each man in the Conference to contribute \$10.00. This is their only means of income to support numerous VAUMC organizations.

For more information, visit [Beacon Newsletter & Notices | VAUMC](#).



## SCOUTING MINISTRIES UPDATE

The United Methodist Church has been a solid supporter of scouting by providing places for scouting units to meet, chartering units, and providing material and volunteer support. Today, it is estimated that scouting serves over 100,000 youth in Virginia and many of those meet in our buildings, do service projects on our grounds, and are connected to our churches in other ways.

There have been challenges in scouting through the bankruptcy that have stressed the relationship between the UMC and scouting. Alan Webber is the new Annual Conference Director of Scouting Ministries and he is working hard to communicate updates regarding scouting in Virginia. There is also a new facilities use agreement form that can be accessed [here](#).

In addition, Alan would love to hear from you. Please click [here](#) for a survey where you can give input on scouting ministries. Please also feel free to email Alan at [aewebber33@gmail.com](mailto:aewebber33@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns.

Robert R. Lindgren will retire as President of Randolph-Macon College June 2025, concluding nearly 19 years of transformational service to the oldest continuously operating Methodist college.



Lindgren was inaugurated as Randolph-Macon's 15th president in 2006. He led during a period of strategic transformation for this historic institution, during an era of extraordinary change. During his tenure, the College added 13 academic programs and majors, including a BSN and a M.A. in Physician Assistant Studies, and new sports and activities like Men's Volleyball, Equestrian, Show Choir, Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, Esports and more. Enrollment has grown by 30 percent.

His legacy is perhaps most visibly shaped by the transformation of the physical campus in Ashland, which boasts 17 new or renovated buildings, all paid for with private support of more than \$110 million.

In other news, Randolph-Macon College is once again offering their summer Youth Theology Institute known as Convergence. Together, youth will explore how Christian faith and the sciences don't have to be in conflict. New this year, Convergence will feature three one-day events open to middle and high school students (individual and youth group registrations are welcome) and one overnight event (open to high school aged youth/youth groups.)

Themes/locations are:

- Mon June 23 "Greening the Church" at UVA's Wesley Foundation
- Tues June 24 "Food, Faith, and Farming" at R-MC in Ashland
- Wed June 25 "Greening the Church" at R-MC in Ashland
- Thurs/Fri June 26-27 "Faith and Healthcare" at R-MC Ashland (high school only)

More info can be found at <https://convergence.rmc.edu/> or by emailing [kendragrimes@rmc.edu](mailto:kendragrimes@rmc.edu).



## Three Notch'd District Leadership

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- Area Bishop - Rev. Sue Hauptert-Johnson
- District Superintendent - Rev. Hyo J. Lee, Ph.D.
- Innovation Coordinator - Rev. Jim Chandler
- Vitality Coordinator - Rev. Pam Anderson
- District Board of Church Location & Building Chair & Property Manager - Jim Mallon
- District Leadership Board Chair - Don Vaught
- Executive Administrator - MaryKaye Cochran
- Lay Leader - Elizabeth Farrell
- Associate Lay Leaders - George Batten, Susan Custer
- Treasurer - Tina Gudgel
- Youth Coordinator (Richmond area) - TBS
- Youth Coordinator (Charlottesville area) - Rebecca Wagner
- UWF President - Linda Porter



The Charlottesville Cluster met on Sunday, April 27, to discuss a plan for a cluster-supported outreach and new faith community in Southwood Village. This project would be a partnership with Habitat for Humanity which is planning a mixed income development there.

## 2026 DIRECT BILL FOR CLERGY HEALTH BENEFITS

Beginning January 1, 2026, the Virginia Conference will change how the Conference-sponsored health benefits for active clergy are funded. Currently, the majority of the funding for the active clergy benefits comes from Apportionment #407 - Active Clergy Health. In 2026, the apportionment will be replaced by a flat amount that will be directly billed to churches **for each health-plan eligible clergyperson** (full-time appointed clergy). The plan is for the amount of \$1,660 to be billed on a monthly basis (\$19,920 for the year). This is similar to the process used for active clergy receiving pension benefits. Apportionment #408 - Retired Clergy Health will still be in effect. To calculate what a church's cost would be in 2025 if direct billing were being used, you can use this link:

<https://unity.vaumc.org/ChurchHealthBillingComparison/>. Should you need additional information, please contact the District Office.