



District Enews - Special Edition (emailed 3/20/20)



With church doors shutting across our communities, it is time for us to show that church has never been about the building.

Online Resources

Many resources are available as churches explore ways to remain connected to their congregations and communities. A comprehensive resource package is available at: <https://novaumc.org/digital-ministry-resources/>

The **Virginia Conference** is offering up to six churches in our District the opportunity to receive a free ZOOM license until July 1st.

The **Roanoke District Common Table** is making small grants available to support churches **new** to online worship and electronic communications. Grants could be used for small expenses like: a tripod for a recording device, *YouTube* packages, or communication software.

For more about online resources, grants and offers email RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org for more information.

Link to More Resources

District Apportionment Deferment

In the midst of COVID-19 disruptions, we give thanks for the many creative ways in which our churches are worshiping online and staying connected to their congregations and communities. This time of worship cancellations has created financial uncertainties in some of our local churches. With that in mind, the Virginia Conference and Roanoke District are working to resource our local churches with alternative methods of giving.



In addition, the District Finance Committee has approved an optional deferment of payment of **District** Apportionments through April 2020. This would include District Administration, Board of Missions, Alta Mons, and Wesley Foundation.

We are grateful for the leadership in each congregation that is managing the stewardship of financial resources during this time.

Kathleen Overby Webster, District Superintendent
Chuck Neely, District Finance Committee Chair
Jim Pearman, District Treasurer

Common Table Online-Giving Grants Available



The **Roanoke District Common Table** is making small grants available to churches new to the online giving process. These grants may be used to offset registration, banking or transaction fees that might be incurred during this startup phase. For more information contact the District Office at RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org More about online

giving: <https://www.vaumc.org/pages/news/2020news/vanco>

In Constant Prayer *A Message from our District Superintendent*

Dear Roanoke District,

I am holding you in constant prayer as you do ministry, in such beautiful and caring ways, during this unprecedented time. Clergy and Laity are blessing many others in such creative and sustaining ways. From feeding students, to on-line preschool chapel time, from bed-time storytime for children, to prayer partners for shut-ins, from daily on-line devotions, to phone check-ins: so amazing and contextual.



I know there is a lot of information flying by right now and it is easy to feel overwhelmed by it all. The Virginia Conference will continue to follow the guidance of the CDC about best practices and necessary restrictions. Pastors are encouraged to check their email frequently. Updates will also be posted on the conference website www.vaumc.org.

Continue in your spiritual practices; it is vital to remain connected to God through prayer, scripture reading, and fasting. Remain connected to each other while practicing social distancing. Our office is available to support you. Like you I look forward to the time vital in-person connections can resume through worship, dinner at a favorite restaurant, visits at hospitals, nursing homes, and jails.

With gratitude for our church's leadership and in the hope of Christ,

Kathleen

Kathleen Overby Webster

District Superintendent's Articles

District and Conference Office Announcements

As we practice the recommended social distancing, the physical **Roanoke District** office is closed. However, you may still contact us by calling (540) 989-3335 or emailing RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org, as staff are working remotely to support District ministries.

The **VAUMC Conference** Office in Glen Allen is closed indefinitely at this time. Many staff will be working remotely and will try to answer questions via email.

General Conference Postponed



2020 General Conference, which was to be held in Minneapolis on May 5-15, 2020, **HAS BEEN POSTPONED**. When rescheduled this world-wide United Methodist Conference will consider legislation for changes in the United Methodist Church, budgets, and revisions to The Social Principles. The Executive Committee, has begun exploring new dates.

General Conference Links and Information

Join Bishop Lewis at noon each day in prayer

The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (NIV) Prayer is essential to sustain our faith and Jesus Christ modeled a life of prayer.... I am very blessed to lead an annual conference that believes in the power of the petitioned prayer!

Please join me at 12 noon every day and pray this [PRAYER](#). Let us invoke the power of the Great Physician to do a mighty work in eradicating this disease all over the world.

Peace and Blessings, Bishop Sharma D. Lewis



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OUR CHURCHES

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