



**Roanoke District
Virginia Conference
United Methodist Church**

J. Douglas Forrester
District Superintendent

December 7, 2020

Colleagues,

Grace and peace to you. I give thanks to God each day for your ministry and your leadership, even in these days of worsening pandemic. I admire your courage, creativity, and fortitude during these difficult days.

There are a few things I do need from you or your Healthy Church Team:

1. I need plans for **all** of your events sent to me two weeks in advance of the date the event is to take place. As the pandemic worsens and cases in our area spike, I want to look at these plans so I can approve them.
2. If you are planning Christmas Eve worship, it may be likely that you need to double down, especially on registrations for worship. Six-foot social distancing is still required, and maintaining this may necessitate a second or even a third Christmas Eve service.
3. Remember that the November 13 amendment to Governor Northam's Executive Order 67 limits non-worship gatherings to 25 persons in attendance, so make sure you are abiding by that as you plan and execute your upcoming events.
4. If you suspect that a person in your church has been exposed to COVID or has tested positive, you must let me know immediately.

Again, I thank you all for all you are doing to be the church, even now, and I give thanks to all of the creative and meaningful ways you are retelling and revealing the story of the One born in Bethlehem for nothing less than the salvation of the world. Thank you all for being such purveyors of hope, light, and life.

Grace and peace,

Doug

4502 Starkey Road, Suite 101, Roanoke Virginia 24018

Phone: 540-989-3335 Fax: 540-989-0672

www.roanokeumc.org

www.RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org