

The United Methodist Church
Virginia Conference



Charlene P. Kammerer
Resident Bishop
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To: District Superintendents, District Office Staff
From: Bishop Charlene Kammerer and the Virginia Cabinet
Date: July 29, 2010
Re: END OF MEMBERSHIP MORATORIUM

Dear Friends in Christ,

By action of the Bishop and Cabinet on July 29, 2008, we invited our churches in the Virginia Conference to covenant with us to observe a two-year moratorium on removal of members by charge conference action. Names that were brought before charge conference were to be lifted in prayer and commended to the prayer ministry and pastoral care of the congregation.

We also noted that membership numbers are no longer a part of the apportionment formula, and changes in membership numbers do not affect the conference and district apportionments to the local church. It was further noted that Charge Conference Form 7 and Form 8 would not be included on the charge conference agenda or carried at the conference web site.

Two years have passed since this action was taken. It is now time to lift the moratorium on membership for our local churches. It is appropriate, after all care has been given to individuals, to present names for membership removal, following the guidance of the Book of Discipline, The United Methodist Church. This practice may commence at the 2010 Charge Conference meetings. The necessary forms will be included in the 2010 charge conference agenda and the information will be posted on the conference web site.

However, we continue to commend to our pastors and members of our congregations to take seriously the need for disciple-making and nurturing in the life of the local church. We pray and plan for fruitfulness in our mutual endeavors to bring people to Christ, to nurture them in Christian fellowship, and to encourage witness and service in the world. May the peace of Christ abide with you all.