

The United Methodist Church
Eastern Shore District, Virginia Conference

Alexander B. Joyner, District Superintendent
Connie Owens, Administrative Assistant



November 30, 2020

To: 2020 Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee Chair

From: Alex Joyner, District Superintendent

Re: Appointment Recommendation Form

The **S/PPRC & Pastor Joint Annual Recommendation to the Cabinet on the Appointment Form**, included with this letter, is an invitation for you and your pastor to enter into a season of discernment as we prepare for the new appointment year. Here's what I'd like to ask you to do as you work with this form:

1. Your committee will need to meet with the pastor concerning your preference and your pastor's preference in December and January. The Appointment Review Process, which is enclosed with this letter, **suggests a process of two meetings**. In the December meeting, you should include the new committee members of the class of 2023 (they have voice but no vote). When you meet in January, you are encouraged to include the outgoing class of 2020 in the discussion process but they may not vote. **The S/PPRC members elected by your recent charge conference should be the ones who sign the enclosed Appointment Recommendation Form.**
2. Complete and return your form to my office **no later than Wednesday, January 13, 2021**. Please note that this is an earlier date than in some prior years.
3. Please make sure that your **Church and Community profile is updated on the EVC system**, even if you are not anticipating a move this year. Equipping Vital Congregations (EVC) is located at <http://www.evc.vaumc.org/>. A login and password is required. If you have never accessed the EVC system before, your pastor and or your church's EVC administrator can help you with this.

Some reminders:

- All preferences by clergy and Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committees are *advisory* to the Bishop and the Cabinet (see Guidelines for Appointment-Making and ¶426 2016 Book of Discipline). The Cabinet is charged with attending to the pastoral needs of the whole church, so we enter into an intensive spiritual process that considers the needs of the local church, the gifts and graces of each pastor, and the ministry of the Body of Christ as a whole. Sometimes that means a requested move doesn't happen, and sometimes it means a requested stay becomes a move because of a greater need elsewhere.
- Whenever a move is anticipated, I will schedule a meeting with the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee so we can discuss the missional needs and desires of the church. I am currently meeting with each pastor on the district as part of their own discernment process.

This is holy work that you are about as you meet with your pastor and your committee. I thank you for your careful and conscientious attention to this task and I will be praying with you through the process. If you have questions or need assistance, please give us a call here at the District Office and we'll do our best to help.

Stand firm in the knowledge and love of the Christ who comes to meet us in every new day.

Encl: 1. S/PPRC & Pastor Annual Recommendation (also, PDF fillable format at <https://www.easternshoredistrictumc.org/resources.html>)
2. Virginia Conference Appointment Review for Clergy

Cc: Pastors