

The Eastern Shore District Committee of Ordained Ministry

8/22/21 District Conference

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17)."

As the chair of the Eastern Shore DCOM, I am so blessed to witness how good people on the Eastern Shore have always rejoiced, pray without ceasing, and giving thanks in all circumstances. Indeed, it was *always* and, *in all circumstances*, including this season of the pandemic, the members of the Eastern Shore DCOM have heard how candidates, clergy, and congregations faithfully persevere this time and fulfill the will of God with joy, prayer, and gratitude.

As ¶666 in Book of Discipline explains, the ministry of the District Committee of Ordained Ministry is to pursue the direction of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry in which they are asked to recruit, credential candidates and clergy, recommending for licensing and ordination, and develop standards for continual pastoral, ministerial, spiritual, and congregational formation with regular evaluation.

In 2020, our committee was able to serve this ministry mainly gathering over zoom. Although we experienced challenges from virtual meetings, we were faithful to meet, listen, and do our interviews. We met one candidate for provisional membership, one candidate for admission, one Certified Lay Minister for her renewal of certification, one candidate for certification and licensing, fifteen licensed local pastors for their renewal of license. These candidates and clergy showed us how God is living and powerful in their ministry and the church's life. Also, Rev. Kendra Powell is evidence of God's ministry in the Eastern Shore as she is newly licensed in the 2021 Annual Conference.

All of our committee members and I are thankful to God for each of these candidates and clergy. I am also grateful for each member who faithfully and joyfully served DCOM in 2020: Irish Smith, Dawn Simpson, Berkley Ashby, Rachel May, Heidi Bak, Brenda Law, Gary Miller, Barton Weakley, Alex Joyner, and Travis DeLoach.

Especially Rev. Travis DeLoach who was a dedicated member of our DCOM and the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for many years. Our November meeting was his last DCOM meeting, where he shared his wisdom and love to support the candidates we met that day. Soon after this meeting, he was admitted to the hospital with the Covid 19 and went back to our Heavenly Home on December 11, 2020. We give thanks to the life and ministry of Rev. Travis DeLoach with us. We will continue to keep his legacy of ministry and continue to pray for his family.

In 2021, the good news is that we can resume our in-person meeting. We are grateful that Market Street United Methodist Church is a great host for us. We ask you to continue to pray and support the ministry of DCOM by:

- Praying for all clergy and church on the shore – pray for their spiritual renewal and vitality. we have 31 charges with 29 pastors (including five part-time local pastors, four retired local pastors, six full-time local pastors, one associate member, one full connection deacon, two retired elders, and other connections)

- Pray for our committee members so that the Holy Spirit may empower them to serve this committee for the kingdom of God. **Brenda Laws, Dawn Simpson, Richard Jenkins, Gary Miller, Gregory Duncan Sr., Heidi Bak, Irish Smith, Tammy Estep, Seonyoung Kim and Mikang Kim.**

- Contact us if you sensed the call to ministry or see someone who has evidence of the call to ministry. Contact DS Kim or me. My email address is mikangkim@vaumc.org

May God bless you and our Eastern Shore District to continue to rejoice in God, pray by the power of the Holy Spirit, and give thanks in Christ our Lord!

Love in Christ,
Rev. Mikang Kim,
Chair, District Committee on Ordained Ministry.