

The United Methodist Church  
Eastern Shore District, Virginia Conference

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



November 12, 2018

To: 2018 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/or January. The Appointment Review Process, which is enclosed with this letter, suggests a process over two months. However, I realize that your committee will probably be experiencing a change in some members at the turn of the year. So if you meet in December, you should include the new committee members of 2019 with voice but no vote. If you meet in January, you are encouraged to include the outgoing class of 2018 in the discussion process but they may not vote. The incoming class of 2019 may participate in the discussion *and* vote only in the January meeting. **The 2019 SPPRC members should be the ones who sign the enclosed preference form.**
2. Complete and return your form to my office no later than **Thursday, January 10, 2019**. Please note that this is an earlier date than in previous year.
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. The 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

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*Our mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

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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 will be meeting with each pastor during the months of December and January.

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

Cc: Pastors

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