

Seventy-two (72) laity and clergy from our Eastern Shore U.M. churches attended the **153<sup>rd</sup> session** of District Conference on Saturday, November 14, 2020, 10 am via Online Zoom session.

District Superintendent, **The Reverend Alexander B. Joyner** was the **District Conference Preacher**. Call to worship was led by **District Lay Leader Jennifer Hume**. Special Music by: **Rev. James Canody** and **Rev. Mikang Kim**.

The **Scripture** was from Mark 8: 1-10. DS Joyner's **sermon, "Seeing All the People"** -Jesus asks us to walk beside him and see all the people -to be one in Jesus Christ. With all the pandemic restrictions this is an opportunity to think about what the Church is without the buildings.

The **business session of the Conference convened**. Eastern Shore District Superintendent Alex Joyner presided.

DS Joyner instructed conference members on voting procedures which was the "Poll" feature in Zoom.

Connie Owens was nominated and elected **Recording Secretary**.

Rev. Mikang Kim (Chair) reported for the **District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM)**. Kim said the DCOM members are called to listen to others who are discerning a call to God. DCOM clergy and lay members are: Mikang Kim, Gary Miller, Iris Gunter, Dawn Simpson, Bart Weakley, Travis DeLoach, Heidi Bak, Brenda Laws, Rachel May, Berkley Ashby and District Superintendent Alex Joyner. Currently on our district there are 8 full-time local pastors, 4 part-time local pastors, 3 part-time (retired) local pastors serving appointments, 2 certified lay ministers and 1 certified candidate.

**The Licensing of Rev. Barbara Schweitzer and Rev. Fred Okello**. Traditionally this is done at Annual Conference but because of the pandemic (AC was online session) this did not happen. The licensing ceremony was performed by DS Joyner with Schweitzer and Okello responding.

Barbara Justis reported on **District Lay Servant Ministries (LSM)**. The District LSM is not recruiting "certified lay servants" –they are recruiting laity who have a desire to be prepared and equipped to fulfill their calling to ministry (becoming a life-long learners). The District Committee on LSM approves the Annual Report of each lay servant submitted to the charge conference. This committee offers a variety of approved advance courses and an introduction to ministry (Basic course). This year for the first time the district offered online courses. Courses will be scheduled on the district for 2021. Justis is hoping there will be a Convocation offered next year as well. Other opportunities for courses other than the district is the annual Virginia Conference Lay Servant Academy and on-demand courses as well as the online Discipleship Ministry's BeADisciple.com offerings. Justis said she will be stepping down as chair of the District Committee on LSM effective January 2021. DS Joyner thanked Justis for her leadership and added that he was proud of our lay servant ministry on the Eastern Shore.

Lay members of the District Conference were asked to vote for **2021 Annual Conference District Lay Nominees**: 8 Adult Members At-Large, 2 Youth and 2 Young Adult members.

**District At-Large Members to June 17-19, 2021 Annual Conference:** There were 11 nominees for District Member At-Large on the Ballot. No nominations from the floor. Voting was by way of the “Poll” feature in Zoom. Results being: Barbara Mason (Christ UMC) -30, Annette Austin (Adams UMC) -29, Kathy Griffith (Trinity UMC) -27, George King (St. John's UMC) -24, William Custis, Sr. (St. John's UMC) -24, Richard Jenkins (Onley UMC) -23, Ida Nedab (Adams UMC) -23, Robin Nedab Adams UMC) -22, Lori Mitchell (Smith Chapel UMC) -19, Janice Canody (Onley UMC) -18, Dorraine Fisher (Adams UMC) -9. First 8 with the highest numbers are the District Members at Large. Lori Mitchell, Janice Canody and Dorraine Fisher are the Alternates and will be called on to replace a district member at-large if she or he cannot attend.

**District Youth Members to June 17-19, 2021 Annual Conference Session were elected (ages 12-18):** Nathaniel Hume (Franktown) and Elizabeth Wager (Adams). Wager was nominated from the floor by Annette Austin. No Alternates

**District Young Persons to June 17-19, 2021 Annual Conference Session were elected (ages 18-30):** Elizabeth Richardson (Capeville) and Malcolm L. White (Adams). Richardson was nominated from the floor by Rev. Barbara Schweitzer and White was nominated by Sandra White. No Alternates

DS Joyner tallied the votes and reported to the Recording Secretary Owens.

Nominations for District offices and committees, as presented from the **District Nominations Committee Report**, were elected unanimously by clergy and lay members of District Conference. Owens (with assistance of ACCC Director Barbara Mason) reported the Agape Christian Children’s Community Center Board which was absent from the PowerPoint presentation: Dawn Thomas (2023), Peggy Wilson (2023), Barbara Mason (2023), Brenda Child (2023), Pat Krukowski (2022), Maureen Toppin (2022), Gail Walker (2022), Mike Miller (2021), Kathy Miller (2021), Aaron Kane (2021), Elizabeth Jones (2021). The ACCC Board of Directors was elected unanimously.

### **Remembrance and Prayer**

DS Joyner lifted up **future events** on the district:

- Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 pm Occohannock on the Bay General Board Meeting via online virtual Zoom meeting.
- Saturday, January 23 is the Occohannock on the Bay Polar Duck Dip!

**District Conference concluded at 11:30 am.**

  
Connie M. Owens, Recorder