

Eighty-four (84) laity and clergy from our Eastern Shore U.M. churches attended the **152nd session** of District Conference on Sunday, December 8, 2019, 4:00 pm at St. John's United Methodist Church in Atlantic, VA.

Virginia Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, **The Reverend Dr. Theodore "Ted" Smith** was the **District Conference Preacher**. Opening Prayer by **District Lay Leader Jennifer Hume**.

The **Scripture** was from Hebrews 10: 16-18. And Dr. Smith's **sermon, "Spirit, Heart and Hands"**,

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

DS Joyner instructed conference members to complete their **Attendance Form** found in their packet of information. Attendance will be picked up when Ballots are collected. Joyner further announced who voting members of District Conference were.

Connie Owens was nominated and elected **Recording Secretary**. Tampa Miller, Robin Lewers and Annette Austin were nominated and elected **Tellers** for the Conference session.

Rev. Mikang Kim reported for the **District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM)**. Kim reported that she has been a member of the DCOM on the Eastern Shore for 3 years and is now serving in her first year as Chair. Kim shared with us her struggles with her call to ministry and how her grandmother supported her in that process when others did not. She prays for more people like her grandmother to nurture those who feel a call. The Eastern Shore DCOM has a membership of 7 clergy and 3 laity who meet quarterly. Members were asked to stand in recognition of their service. The District currently has 3 candidates; 1 certified candidate; 2 clergy seeking provisional membership; 14 licensed local pastors –8 of whom have completed their Course of Study: Nona Allen, Greg Duncan, Rob Kelly, James Nock, Barbara Parker, Curtis Lucy, Harold White Sr. and William Jefferson; 2 certified lay ministers: Barbara Justis and Kendra Powell. Kim urged those on the conference floor who may be feeling that call to ministry to contact her.

Rev. Brenda Laws reported on the **District Lay Servant Ministries (LSM)** for Director Barbara Justis. 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. This committee offers a variety of approved advance courses and an introduction to ministry (Basic course). Courses for 2020 will be scheduled between February and September in different locations on the Shore –southern, northern, and central. There were 72 lay servants at the close of 2018. Lay servants are required to take a course every 3 years. Laws encouraged signup for the 2020 courses as soon as they are scheduled. Also, Barbara Justis can assist with online learning options.

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 with two additions: Gail Walker (2022) for the Agape Christian Children's Community Center Board and Paul Oh as Youth Ministry

Coordinator for the District Board of Missions and Ministries. Joyner reported that the District Board of Missions and Ministries vision is to expand to encompass some of the other ministries such as Ministry with the Poor.

Lay members of the District Conference were asked to vote for **2020 Annual Conference Lay Nominees**: 8 Adult Members At-Large, 2 Youth and 2 Young Adult members. There were 7 nominees for District Member At-Large on the Ballot with 1 nomination from the floor –Brenda Upshur; 1 Youth and 2 Young Adult nominees with no nominations from the floor. Ballots were collected by District Conference tellers. The results of the election being:

District Members at-Large to June 18-20, 2020 Annual Conference in Roanoke were: Bill Cheesman (Grace), William Custis Sr. (Metropolitan), Dorraine Fisher (Adams), Barbara Mason (Christ), Ida Nedab (Adams), Robin Nedab (Adams), Royce Stafford (Melfa), Brenda Upshur (New Mission). No Alternates

District Youth Members to June 18-20, 2020 Annual Conference Session were elected:
Nathaniel Hume (Franktown). No Alternates

District Young Persons to June 18-20, 2020 Annual Conference Session were elected:
Harold White Jr. (New Mission), Jake Canody. No Alternates

DS Joyner, preparing to talk about district ministries, was interrupted by three “construction workers” (equipped with hard hats and high visibility vests) who were busy laying tiles of scripture on the conference floor. Rev. Donna Doan, Annette Austin and Harold White Jr. of the District Church Transformation Team presented a skit which highlighted ways the program “**Choosing the Faithful Path**” (CFP) could help their church and with testimonies from the audience. Rev. Doan, CTT Coordinator announced that there will be an introduction to CFP at the Spring Training event. She also encouraged churches to contact her about the program –it’s making a difference in the churches who have participated.

Joyner lifted up our **three district ministries**: Occohannock on the Bay Camp and Retreat Center, Agape Christian Children’s Community Center, and Una Familia. He encouraged churches to support these vital programs.

We give thanks for the lives of 5 year-old Colton Parks, and Reverends Ken Swick and Emily Brothers. Agape CCCC Director Doris Cropper shared with the conference, that student Colton Parks had been such a loving child to everyone –staff and other students. He will be missed. Joyner spoke of Melfa UMC pastor Ken Swick who died suddenly from a virus while on vacation. Swick was very active in mission and outreach. Associate Member Emily Brothers who retired from Wattsville UMC after serving for many years will be remembered for the many years as a great mentor to so many people.

DS Joyner lifted up **future events** on the district: Mini-Training for Church Leaders, January 18; OOTB’s Polar Duck Dip on January 25; Spring Training on March 21; and on March 27-29, Youth Retreat at OOTB.

Business session adjourned.

Minutes of the One Hundred Forty-ninth (152nd) Session of the
Eastern Shore District Conference
Virginia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church
St. John's United Methodist Church, Atlantic, VA
Sunday, December 8, 2019, 4:00 pm

Sacrament of Holy Communion

District Conference concluded at 5:40 pm.



Connie M. Owens, Recorder