

One hundred and sixteen (116) laity and clergy from our Eastern Shore U.M. churches attended the **150<sup>th</sup> session** of District Conference on Sunday, January 14, 2018, 4:00 pm at Grace United Methodist Church in Parksley, VA.

District Superintendent, The Reverend Alexander B. Joyner was the **District Conference Preacher**. **Music** was provided by Craddockville United Methodist Church's Praise Band.

The **Scripture** was taken from Phillipians 1:12-24. In his **sermon, *The Next Big Thing***, District Superintendent Alex Joyner, said, ... "There are no guarantees that faithfulness and obedience are going to lead you to a happier, healthier, wealthier life...But we do it, because we're not alone. There are ancestors in the faith before us and there are children and grandchildren after us. And we do it because the most important work has already been done by God in Jesus. And there will be joy. That's all over Paul's letter to the Philippians. There is joy—even in the suffering...we can be confident that whatever God's next big thing will be, the content of it will be the same as God's last big thing—it is the love of God in Jesus Christ."

The **business session of the Conference convened**. District Superintendent 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**. Rachel Joyner (Lay), Roland Major (Clergy), Maxine Ashby (Lay) and Greg Duncan (Clergy) were nominated and elected **Tellers** for the Conference session.

Nominations for District offices and committees, as presented from the **District Nominations Committee Report** with a nomination from the floor for Don Foster to serve the class of 2020 for the District Board of Trustees were elected unanimously.

Ms. Maxine Ashby, 2017 District Director of **Lay Servant Ministries** reported for the Committee. She lifted up the courses offered in 2017: *Planning Worship, Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts, By Water and the Spirit*, and beginning January 13 and 27 of this year, *the Basic Course*. She commented that she will be stepping down as Director. Barbara Justis will serve as Director for 2018. Ashby commented that it has been a pleasure serving.

Rev. Judy Worthington, Chair of the **District Committee on Ordained Ministry** reminded us that we are called to recognize other people who are called. These people are in our churches and community—they need your help to discern their call to ministry. Worthington congratulated the two local pastors who have recently completed the 5-year Course of Study: Robert Kelly and Curtis Lucy.

DS Joyner asked **District Committee on Ordained Ministry members** present to hold up their hand to be recognized for the work they do.

Michael Henry, Director of **Occhohannock on the Bay Camp and Retreat** recalled his journey at Camp Occhohannock –beginning as a camper, counselor, summer program coordinator and now Director. To quote him, “I’m still here and I don’t want to be anywhere else”. The Camp is celebrating 60 years. Henry reported that there was more giving this year than in previous years. Also in his report: upcoming events, listing of user groups, renovations and future projects, as well as introducing some of the Summer Staff and highlighting 2018 Summer Camps and discounts. *Henry challenged churches to find 1 or 2 children in their community to sponsor for Summer Camp this year.*

Lay members of the District Conference were asked to vote for: 10 Members At-Large, 2 Youth and 2 Young Adult members. Ballots were collected and tallied by District Conference tellers. **The results of the election being (in the order of highest votes received):**

**District Members at-Large** to June 15-17, 2018 Annual Conference: Barbara Justis (Calvary), Iris Smith (Metropolitan), Annette Austin (Adams), Doris Cropper (New Beginnings), Faye Godbey (Franktown), Barbara Mason (Christ), Connie Kershner (Market Street), Ida Nedab (Adams), William Lee Custis, Sr. (Metropolitan), Robin Nedab (Adams). **Reserve Members:** Bill Cheesman (Grace), Jennifer Greer (Drummondtown), Douglas Godbey (Franktown)

**District Youth Members** to June 15-17, 2018 Annual Conference Session the following were elected: Katelyn Leatherbury (Franktown) and David Greer (Drummondtown). No Alternates

**District Young Persons** to June 15-17, 2018 Annual Conference Session the following were elected: Harold White Jr. (New Mission), Rebekah Greer (Drummondtown). **Reserve Members:** Laura Lungarelli (Epworth), Charles Hume (Franktown)

Joyner recognized the **District Ministry with the Poor Workgroup** and expressed appreciation for their work. Three of our local ministries were recipients of Ministry with the Poor grants this year: Meals for the Hungry (a ministry of Epworth UMC), Manna Café (Christ UMC’s ministry), Una Familia (after-school ministry of our district). A portion of 2015 Annual Conference offering is responsible for grant funding.

DS Joyner lifted up future events on the district.

**Business session adjourned.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion** concluded our worship.

District Conference concluded at 5:45 pm.



Connie M. Owens, Recorder