

Eighty-two (82) laity and clergy from our Eastern Shore U.M. churches attended the **151<sup>st</sup> session** of District Conference on Sunday, November 11, 2018, 4:00 pm at Franktown United Methodist Church in Franktown, VA.

Lynchburg District Superintendent, **The Reverend Scott Davis** was the **District Conference Preacher**. Opening Prayer and Call to Worship by **District Lay Leader Jennifer Hume**.

The **Scripture** was from Hebrews 12: 1-2. In his **sermon, “Fix Your Eyes”**, Davis reminded us to lay aside weight (sin) and run the race. Fix your eyes on Jesus!

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**. Faye Godbey, Paul Oh and Linda Lowe were nominated and elected **Tellers** for the Conference session.

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. Those District Leaders and Board Members current, and newly elected, were asked to stand.

Barbara Justis, District Director of **Lay Servant Ministries** reported for the Committee. She announced courses that will be offered in January, February and March 2019 in the northern, central and southern regions of the Eastern Shore. Courses will be a combination of Friday and Saturday or 2 Saturday combinations. Lay Servants are the foundation of the local churches. Justis asked those Lay Servants present, to stand and be recognized. Saturday, March 16, 2019 will be the “Day Apart for Lay Servants” (time for networking opportunities) on our district. Several clergy and seasoned certified lay servants will teach upcoming courses. DS Joyner will be one of the instructors. The members of the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministry were named and asked to stand. Both Justis and DS Joyner agreed that the E.S. District LSM Program is one of the best in our conference.

Rev. Judy Worthington, Chair reported for the **District Committee on Ordained Ministry**. The DCOM assists individuals with their call to ministry. They support these individuals as they understand their call and help them recognize what that means for their life. Worthington explained the tracks of ordained ministry available. Currently the Eastern Shore has 3 Candidates who have been admitted; 1 clergy seeking Provisional Elder status; 1 Lay Supply (Virginia Greer who is also a Delegate to General Conference); 15 licensed local pastors serving, 8 of which have completed their 5 years of Course of Study: Nona Allen, Greg Duncan, Bill Greer, Rob Kelly, Curtis Lucy, James Nock, Barbara Parker and Harold White Sr. We also have 2 certified lay ministers: Kendra Powell and Barbara Justis.

DS Joyner reported on the **February 23-26, 2019 Special Session of General Conference** to be held in St. Louis, Missouri. This session will be to create a “Way Forward”—ordination and marriage as it relates to LGBTQ+. District Conference members were asked to refer to their hand-out which list the three plans that will be presented: The One Church Plan, The Connectional Conference Plan, and The Traditionalist Plan. Other plans introduced as petitions: The Simple Plan and A Plan of Dissolution. Joyner invited conference members as preparation for 2019 GC, to engage in: Weekly 24-hour fast; Pause and pray for 4 minutes from 2:23 through 2:26 am or pm or at another time; pray using a weekly calendar posted on <UMCPrays.org>. From our district: Virginia Greer is a Lay Delegate; Joel Joyner is a Reserve Lay Delegate; Alex Joyner is a Reserve Clergy Delegate. DS Joyner concluded with prayer.

Lay members of the District Conference were asked to vote for **2019 Annual Conference Lay Nominees**: 8 Adult 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 20-22, 2019 Annual Conference in Roanoke were: Bill Cheesman (Grace), William Custis Sr. (Metropolitan), Bonnie Davis (Bethel), Jennifer Greer (Drummondtown), Barbara Mason (Christ), Ida Nedab (Adams), Robin Nedab (Adams), Iris Smith (Metropolitan). No Alternates

**District Youth Members** to June 20-22, 2019 Annual Conference Session were elected: David Greer (Drummondtown) and Nathaniel Hume (Franktown). No Alternates

**District Young Persons** to June 20-22, 2019 Annual Conference Session were elected: Harold White Jr. (New Mission), Jeb Guy (Melfa). **Reserve Members**: Rebekah Greer (Drummondtown), Malcolm White Jr. (Adams).

**Lay Nominations from the floor for 2020 General Conference**: Jennifer Hume (Franktown), Bonnie Davis (Bethel), Jeb Guy (Melfa). These three nominees will be considered for election along with other nominees in our Virginia Conference at the 2019 Annual Conference Session.

DS Joyner lifted up future events on the district.

**Business session adjourned.**

**Veterans were asked to stand as we recognize Veteran’s Day.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

District Conference concluded at 5:30 pm.

  
Connie M. Owens, Recorder