

2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE ORIENTATION SESSIONS

from the

Office of Connectional Ministries

1. FOCUS OF 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Moving Forward in God's Mission is the focus of the 237th Virginia Annual Conference. The foundational scripture for this focus is Matthew 28:18-20: "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (NRSV)

2. Mission Support

Opportunities for mission support will be available through the annual conference offering, kits for conference, and 4Cans4Conference. In addition, there will be a 5K walk, bike, run, and yoga on Saturday morning. Information about these activities may be found at <https://vaumc.org/AC2019#race>. "Glory Sightings" will be included again as part of the conference agenda as we witness how the Virginia Conference vision of being disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve is being realized in the Virginia Conference.

3. ANNUAL CONFERENCE SITE

The Berglund Center in Roanoke (710 Williamson Rd NE, Roanoke, VA 24016) will be the site for Annual Conference. Registration for laity and clergy will be at the Special Events Center.

4. LAITY SESSION AND CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Laity Session (Coliseum) and the Clergy Executive Session (Performing Arts Theatre) will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday morning. The Laity session will meet from 10:00-11:00). A time for laity to meet General Conference laity nominees will be offered from 11:00-noon in the Coliseum.

5. ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The agenda for Annual Conference begins on Thursday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. and concludes on Saturday at noon. A Consent Agenda containing reports requiring no vote by the Annual Conference will be approved on Friday morning.

Items that require action of the Annual Conference:

- Thursday afternoon – Rules Committee, Voting for General Conference delegates
- Thursday evening – Voting for General Conference delegates
- Friday morning – Minutes Committee, Cabinet Report, Consent Agenda
- Friday afternoon – Equitable Compensation Report, Site Selection Committee Report, Historical Society Report, VUMPI Report, Common Table Report, Election of Boards and Agencies
- Saturday morning – Minutes Committee, Council on Finance and Administration Report

- Time designated for motions is provided in the agenda on Friday morning and Saturday morning

6. ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA ITEMS

Some non-voting items to note on the Conference agenda include:

Thursday afternoon:

- A time of Spiritual Centering by Bishop Weaver
- Devoted time for voting for election of General Conference delegates

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Friday morning:

- Recognition of new faith communities
- Conference Lay Leader's Address
- General Conference Report
- Mission Worship Service
Worship will include annual conference mission offering.

Friday afternoon:

- Recognition of Retirees
- Memorial Service

Saturday morning:

Closing worship and fixing of appointments

7. ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION ON THE WEB

Information on the annual conference sessions and an electronic copy of the Book of Reports is on the Virginia Conference website, www.vaumc.org by clicking on 2019 Annual Conference Information.

The "2019 Virginia Conference Session" section of the website www.vaumc.org/AC2019 will receive updates following each session to reflect the actions of the annual conference.

8. ON-LINE VIRTUAL PROMOTIONAL PACKET

A **virtual promotional packet** will be available at www.vaumc.org from June 1 – 30. Conference session materials will be distributed at registration.

9. GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOOK OF REPORTS

- Important registration information is inside the **front cover**. **Please note that registration will be on Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.** "Reporting Guide for Lay Members" – pp. 154-157.

- The Annual conference “**Agenda**” (schedule) – *pp. 5-7*.
Reports in the Book of Reports are generally in the order in which they will be addressed in the annual conference sessions.

10. LARGER REPORTS REQUIRING ANNUAL CONFERENCE VOTE

The report of the **Board of Pensions** (*pp. 54-69*) includes a number of financial recommendations during the Friday afternoon session.

The report of the **Common Table for Church Vitality** and conference agencies that are amenable to Common Table are on pages 70-97. Action items related to Common Table are on page 71. The Common Table report will be on Friday afternoon.

The report of the **Council on Finance and Administration** (*pp. 119-130*) will be on Saturday morning.

11. TRANSPORTATION, PARKING, FOOD

Parking is available at the Berglund Center.

A variety of menu choices will be available for purchase throughout the day at the Special Events Center.

12. HEARING ASSISTANCE

Hearing assistance devices will be available at the front right side of the stage. Persons using these devices will need to provide a driver’s license or other form of ID which will be returned when the devices are returned.

13. OTHER INFORMATION

- a) Your presence is a witness of Christian faith to the Roanoke community as you represent The United Methodist Church at annual conference.
- b) Annual Conference members should sit within the voting “bar” of the conference established at the opening session.
- c) Please note "**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE**" (*pp. 158-163*) for information about kit and food collection, and the annual conference offering. (This information is also found on the website)
- d) **Tan “Visitor Badges”** are available at the registration table for spouses and other guests who are attending annual conference but are not official lay or clergy members of annual conference.
- e) If you are a **replacement or alternate** for a member of annual conference from your charge or district, you will need to bring to the “Registration Help Desk” an “Alternate Lay Member Form” or “Alternate District Lay Member Form” found at www.vaumc.org/AC2019 affirming you have been duly elected by your Church Council, Charge Conference, or District Conference.
- f) If you find you cannot attend, please pass on the Book of Reports and other material to your replacement.

