

Annual Conference FAQ

Updated August 31, 2020

- When is Annual Conference 2020?
 - The 2020 Virginia Annual Conference session will be a one-day, virtual event held on September 19, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- What is different about Annual Conference 2020?
 - The 2020 Virginia Annual Conference will be a one-day, virtual event and the agenda will be streamlined. In order to accommodate this, the rules of the conference will be voted on at the start of the Annual Conference session.
- What information do I need to know for this virtual session?
 - All information concerning this session of Annual Conference will be made available as it is released at <https://vaumc.org/ac2020/>.
- When is the *Book of Reports* being mailed out?
 - The *Book of Reports* was mailed out to Annual Conference members in mid-August. An electronic version is available at <https://vaumc.org/ac2020/>.
- How should I prepare as a voting member (clergy or laity) for this Annual Conference session?
 - *The Book of Reports* was mailed out in mid-August. Please review as part of your preparation for the Annual Conference session.

As well, there are three opportunities for members to engage in prior to the virtual session.

1. Annual Conference Orientation

A prerecorded video will be released to the district offices for district training events and be available for conference-wide use at <https://vaumc.org/ac2020/> on **Friday, September 4**.

This video will have: a greeting from Bishop Lewis; instructions on how members and visitors to the session can access the event; an explanation of member participation and voting; an overview of the agenda; and reports from Pensions and the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA).

2. Annual Conference live Q& A session

Still have questions or concerns following the September 4 orientation? Join the Rev. Dr. Ted Smith, conference director of Connectional Ministries, and Bryan Compton, conference IT manager, to answer any questions on **Tuesday**,

September 8 from 7-8 p.m. Questions may be submitted beforehand to ac2020@vaumc.org. Access the event at <https://livestream.com/vaumc/ac2020>. John Fuller, VUMPI executive director, and David Dommissie, conference treasurer, will also take part to answer any questions from their reports.

3. Practice Annual Conference event

Bryan Compton, conference IT manager, will hold two practice sessions for Annual Conference on **Monday, September 14** from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and **Friday, September 18** from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Members are highly encouraged to take part in one or both of these sessions.

Links to the practice sessions will be released to members' emails either the day before or the day of the practice sessions by Options Technology, the Annual Conference IT service management vendor.

Please log on early to join in. If you have technical issues during the practice sessions, please email helpAC2020@vaumc.org to get assistance so you are ready and able to participate during the September 19 session.

- What technology do I need to participate in the virtual session? How will I vote at conference?
 - Take part in the three opportunities mentioned above to learn more about how you can access the session, participate, and vote as a voting member.

Participants who only want to view the session can access at:
<https://livestream.com/vaumc>.

The conference IT service management vendor will be Options Technology and VVoter software will be used for voting.

- How will I register for Annual Conference?
 - Annual Conference members (clergy and laity) will need to register between September 2 and September 9 so the IT vendor can create log-in information and credentials needed for members to participate in the two Annual Conference practice sessions (September 14 and September 18) and to enter the virtual Bar of the Conference on September 19.

On September 2, all Annual Conference members will receive an email in order to register. The email will have a link that will allow members to enter their name and affirm their attendance to the virtual Annual Conference 2020 session on September 19.

Active clergy are required to register with their vaumc.org email addresses. Lay members need to register with the email address on file with the conference office.

This is a firm registration period, so Annual Conference members will only have from September 2 until September 9 to preregister. If you do not register during this timeframe, members risk not being able to participate during the virtual session.

- Will there be a conference offering during the virtual session?
 - Yes. The Annual Conference Mission Offering will be taken during one-day virtual Annual Conference on September 19, 2020. Bishop Lewis has selected two critical ministries this year.

50 percent Food Ministries within the Virginia Conference – Funds for food ministries within the Virginia Conference will be disbursed by the Missional Ministries Board.

50 percent Partnerships of Hope – (Formerly Initiatives of Hope) Support for our conference long-term international mission partnerships with Mozambique, Cambodia and Brazil.

Local churches are encouraged to participate in this expression of second mile giving to these vital ministries. Checks may be made payable to “Virginia Conference of the UMC” or “VAUMC” with Conference Offering in the memo line.

- Will there be a Service of Remembrance?
 - Yes. The Service of Remembrance and the Retirement Service will be held as a separate, pre-recorded virtual worship event and shared conference-wide on September 26, 2020.
- Will there be a Retirement Service?
 - Yes. The Service of Remembrance and the Retirement Service will be held as a separate, pre-recorded virtual worship event and shared conference-wide on September 26, 2020.
- How are Kits for Conference and Cans 4 Conference being handled this year?

Local churches are encouraged to continue the collection of Kits for Conference. Specific collection details still underway, but will very likely include organization of regional, or district-wide, drop-off locations. More information will be forthcoming at www.vaumc.org/ac2020 as the new plan is created and finalized.

Cans 4 Conference coordinator Herb Brynildsen shared that conference members are encouraged to start or continue collecting cans for your local food bank or pantry as your conference collection (four cans or bags or boxes or car loads -- remember pop tops, fruit, soup, veggies and any nonperishable boxes). You are encouraged to take a picture of your food collection and post it on the conference Facebook page.

- Where is the virtual promo packet?
 - All information concerning this session of Annual Conference will be made available for the virtual promo packet as it is released at <https://vaumc.org/ac2020/>.