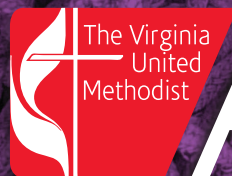


DAILY Advocate

Saturday, June 20, 2015

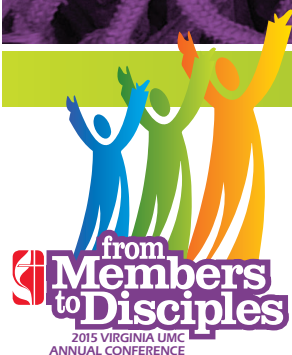


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233rd Virginia Annual Conference, Berglund Center, Roanoke, Virginia



TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- 7:30 Morning Eucharist
(Prayer Room- Parlor A)
- 8:15 Singing our Faith
- 8:30 Bible Study
- 9:00 Minutes Committee
Laity Address
Balloting
Pensions report
Common Table report
Imagine No Malaria
Elections of boards and agencies
Consecration of conference leaders
Recognitions
- 11:15 Worship
Annual Conference Offering
- Noon Recess for lunch
- 1:45 Singing our Faith
- 2:00 Retiree Recognition
Balloting and Resolutions
- 5:00 Recess for dinner
- 7:30 A Service for the
Ordering of Ministry

SCAN ME

to go to
vaumc.org/AC2015



Bishop calls for stronger discipleship

On Friday, June 19, after organizing the Annual Conference and conducting balloting for General and jurisdictional conference delegates, Bishop Young Jin Cho delivered his Episcopal Address to laity and clergy gathered inside the Berglund Coliseum.

Bishop Cho admitted that the conference year had not been an easy one. In his words, it had been filled with "challenges, conflicts and struggles."

He said he has emphasized four areas of focus since beginning as bishop three years ago. These included leading All Things New-Equipping Vital Congregations (ATN-EVC), strengthening the spiritual foundation of our mission and ministries, developing new faith communities and nurturing a culture of cooperation and coordination.

An important accomplishment during the conference year was the conference-wide conversation on human sexuality were shared at this meeting

organized by the Task Force team and Common Table.

Although, Bishop Cho said, not everyone was happy about the conversation, strides were taken toward "a holy conversation on this divisive issue." He noted that the 2016 General Conference will be crucial for the future of The United Methodist

"Growing from members to disciples is the most important change we need today."

Church in deciding this issue.

But, while in the midst of conferencing and discussions, Bishop Cho urged that the church not forget that our mission is making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our world.

This was the reason he chose the theme "From Members to Disciples" for the 2015 Annual Conference.

"Growing from members to disciples is the most important change we need today," said Bishop Cho.

In the next several months, he said, the church will need to think about and define the meaning of "disciples." And one of the questions that will need to be asked is, "How do we make disciples of Jesus Christ?"

This question represents much more than just a question, Bishop Cho said. He urged the church to wrestle with the theme as it will also be the theme for the 2015 charge conferences as a means to address challenges facing the church.

"We are called to be more than conquerors. Crisis is dangerous, but in Christ crisis will be an opportunity," he said, helping both clergy and laity to be open more to God and to change.

Bishop Cho ended by urging the power of prayer and the effect it can have for the church. "Prayer changes the situation we face, but most of all, prayer changes ourselves," he said. ☞

Bishop Cho leads the Berglund Coliseum congregation in singing "Spirit of the Living God" as he closes his Episcopal Address.



Voting Results:

It was a bit of a bumpy start to the voting process on Friday afternoon at Annual Conference. But after the first votes started to be tallied, Bishop Cho noted, to the applause of Berglund Coliseum that 2015 was the first year to use electronic devices.

After Bishop Cho's Episcopal Address, the laity votes for the General/ Jurisdictional Ballot did have to be redone as the results came back as invalid on the first attempt. Results should be revealed today.

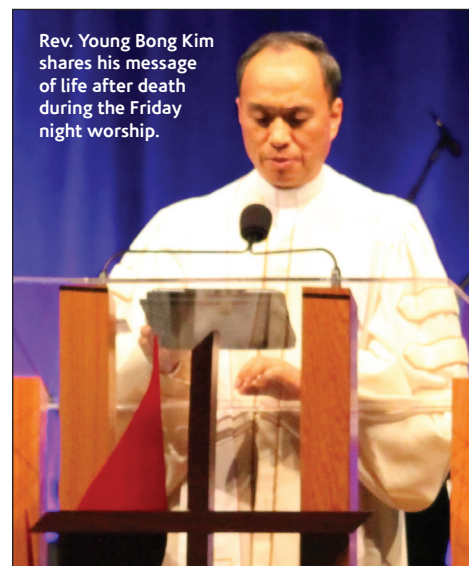


Rev. Stephen Bray, chair of the Rules Committee, oversees recommendations of the Rules Committee.



Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion

Rev. Young Bong Kim reflected on death for the Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion on Friday night. But death as a celebration—the Christian belief that to die means life. He stated that though our loved ones pass, we are still connected to them spiritually on the same sphere. “Death has no place in God’s Kingdom. I earnestly pray that the Holy Spirit may touch our hearts to broaden our visions so we can see the



Rev. Young Bong Kim shares his message of life after death during the Friday night worship.

world beyond our time and space,” said Rev. Kim.

The service included the naming of Virginia Conference clergy and laity who died since the last Annual Conference as well as Holy Communion by intinction and songs from “Here I am, Lord” to “Revelation Song,” a song that reminds us that though Jesus was slain on the cross, death was not the end. 📖



Annual Conference art auction to benefit Imagine No Malaria

Artists from across the conference have created a number of pieces of original art to be used to enhance worship experiences during this year's Annual Conference. These works of art are available to purchase at an online auction. One hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit Imagine No Malaria. If your Sunday school room needs a new, vibrant piece of art, or if you would like a special gift for a retiring pastor or a new ordinand, you might consider bidding on one of these original pieces. Bidding ends today, Saturday, June 20. To see the art, read about each piece and the artist who created it and make a bid, go to www.artvaumc.org. 📖



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The Virginia Conference has a new Instagram account and a Pinterest account. Check out our pictures and videos on Instagram at [Virginia_UMC](https://www.instagram.com/Virginia_UMC) especially throughout Annual Conference. Follow us on our new Pinterest with this link: <https://www.pinterest.com/socialmedia1320/>. Our boards include books to read, Bible study ideas and notable United Methodists. 📖