

# Friday Afternoon

Pictures from the retirement service may be [viewed on the conference Flickr page](#).

The **Retirement Service** began at 2 p.m. Friday. Meleah Mayton of the Winchester District issued the Call to Worship and Opening Prayer. The Rev. Brett Isernhagen, Arlington District, offered the Prayer for Illumination. The Rev. Dr. Alexander Duncan Jr., a member of the retiring class, preached the sermon on the subject "Time's Up." "To each season there is a beginning and an end," he said. "You can hear the clock ticking on seasons until the clock ticks no more, signifying that God Almighty, the master timekeeper, says 'time's up.'"

He said he was mopping the floor in the fellowship hall when the phone rang. It was an unidentified number but he answered. It was the bishop. "My bishop wanted to come to speak to you today. Me, just a mere local pastor." Some of us "were called into a holy service," he said. "And now that time is coming to an end. My clock first started to tick under Bishop Kammerer," he said. "Tick, tick, tick." However he said, "What I can declare is that service to this conference and to this season will end. We serve the Lord, we fight the good fight, we keep on keeping on until we can keep on no more." Elijah served well. Elijah had some struggle. At one time he was in a very dark place. They too have a season and an end and a beginning, Duncan said. "Some may say we are in a dark place right now, but it's only for a season, he said. "Some decisions have been made and make people angry -- the angry church. I can relate. At one point I was categorized as an angry black man but my season wasn't up. God sent me a friend who gave me words of encouragement and wise counsel. If you are in a dark place right now, be still. The clock hasn't stopped ticking on the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church." The Rev. Robert Sharp, Staunton District, gave the sending prayer.

This year's retiring class for a total of 1,288.75 years of service:

Catherine G. Abbot, 13.00

Karen M. Adams, 14.00

C. Douglas Akers, 39.00

Marie B. Allen, 3.00

Paul S. Baker, 11.00

Thomas R. Barnard, 24.00  
Mary Beth Blinn, 38.00  
James F. Brown, 24.00  
Marc D. Brown, 42.00  
Mark A. Burgess, 42.00  
Ruth M. Burgess, 33.50  
A. Bruce Carper, 28.00  
Marlene A. Chandler, 9.00  
Pamela Clark Egan, 16.00  
W. Mark Clayton, 26.00  
Mary Alice Colwell, 4.00  
Wesley S. Corber, 8.00  
Janet L. Davis, 1.00  
Michael T. Davis, 20.00  
Michael G. Day, 30.00  
Alexander Duncan Jr., 9.00  
Larry J. Edmonds, 40.00  
Sharon L. Forbes, 16.00  
Walton C. Forstall, 30.50  
Thomas E. Frost, 10.00  
R. Douglas Gunsalus, 24.00  
Stephen M. Hall, 6.00  
Kenneth E. Hanson, 7.00  
Robert F. Hardy, 12.50  
Janet D. Hawkins, 19.00  
Doris T. Hedrick, 7.00  
Robert L. House, 31.00  
Lucretia A. Hurley Browning, 44.50  
Franklin T. Jennings, 35.00  
Edward W. Johnson, 1.00  
James F. Lacy, 12.50  
Larry A. Lehman, 8.00  
Ronald A. Litten, 36.00

Susanne H. Mactavish,2.00  
Pamela G. Meeuwissen,13.00  
Thomas L. Mercer Sr.,40.00  
John E. Meservey,6.00  
Lynda D. Moore, 13.00  
Judy G. Morris,12.00  
David L. Nesselrodt, 28.00  
Charles W. Parks, 27.00  
Robert J. Parks Jr., 36.00  
Barry L. Penn Hollar, 41.00  
Dennis W. Perry, 43.00  
Bonnie G. Pizzeck, 17.50  
Martha T. Reynolds, 3.00  
Thomas W. Reynolds, 14.00  
Raymond G. Rowland Jr., 29.00  
Betty Jo Sims, 13.00  
Debra A. Straughter, 4.75  
Rudolph E Tucker Jr., 38.00  
Russell T. Urban, 20.00  
Walter W. Westbrook, 39.00  
William J. Winfree,41.00  
James R. Wingert, 34.00

The business of the annual conference continued wiht the **Rev. Joseph T. Carson III** bringing the report from **Equitable Compensation**. No changes are being made in the minimum compensation schedule for 2020. The report was approved. It was also recommended that the floor schedule not be changed. That was approved as well.

The **Rev. John T. "Jack" Martin Jr.** brought the report of the conference **Historical Society**. He recognized the work of Stephanie Davis, the conference's part-time archivist. The trustees asked that 10 percent of funds received by conference and/or district boards of mission from the sale or closing of churches be directed to the conference treasurer and reserved for the salary and operating costs of the conference archivist. Betty Forbes of CFA said that agency opposed the

recommendation saying apportionments should be sufficient to cover her salary and includes an increase this year. The recommendation failed.

**Neal Wise**, chair of the **Site Selection Committee**, brought his report. Future conferences are scheduled for Roanoke, June 18-20, 2020; Hampton, June 17-19, 2021; Hampton, June 16-18, 2022; Roanoke, June 15-17, 2023. The committee recommends that annual conference be held at the Berglund Center in Roanoke, June 20-22, 2024. The recommendation was approved.

**Mr. Ken Peterson** brought the report of **Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc.** The recommendations put forth were approved.

Ashley Isernhagen, Lyle Morton and Carlos Liceaga brought the report of the **Common Table**. Jill Gaynor, president of the Board of Communications, related some changes in conference communications ministry. She talked about the evolution of the Virginia United Methodist Advocate. The decision was made to stop publication of the printed publication. Focus groups have been conducted and feedback reconfirmed it was time to stop publication of the Advocate. The board is asking people to take a short survey to help navigate future needs. It can be found at [www.vaumc.org/survey](http://www.vaumc.org/survey). The recommendations brought by the Common Table on page 71 of the *Book of Reports* were approved. A motion was passed to look at strengthening ties with the Virginia Council of Churches.

Lyle Morton brought the Rev. Marc Brown to the stage in recognition of his work as director of Connectional Ministries.

The Rev. Seung Hae Yoo-Hess presented election of nominations to committees, boards and agencies of the annual conference. They were elected.

The **Memorial Service** started at 4:10 p.m. The Rev. Lisa McGehee, Richmond District, opened the service with Scripture from Matthew 28:18-20, followed by the greeting by Bishop Weaver. The Rev. Seungsoo "RJ" Jun, Roanoke District, brought the message. "We pray that we will remember their stories. It will be hard for us to remember all their names, but their stories will continue on through your loves." He explained that he is from Korea, and in that culture the first thing you do is to ask a person their age to find if they are ahead of you or behind you. Those gone before have led the crowd. Our ultimate leader is Jesus Christ. "We forget our initial call. The best way to remember this is to remember our stories." Jun had those gathered take a short "test." He asked those gathered to take a memory test. He showed letters in random order and

asked how many remembered. He then showed the same letters but used them in familiar acronyms. These letters were easier to remember.

"I believe we walk in the journey overwhelmed and sometimes lost," Jun said. We try our best and we strive, but we also see how we struggle."

Jun spent half his life in Korea and half in the United States. He says he "doesn't easily fit in either culture. I am an immigrant in this world. As a Methodist pastor, and the son of a Methodist pastor I was taught three things. Remember to pray or preach at any time. Prepare to move at any time given. Prepare to die for the Gospel at any time given."

Our theme for this year is based on the great commission, Jun reminded the gathering. And we must remember the greatest commission given to us by Jesus, "Remember, I am with you always even to the end of the age." We need to remember how the holy spirit will work through us when we allow it to work with us, Jun said.

"We can all hold on to each other," Jun said. "Each and every member who remembers their call to God's mission will truly make us united."

The Rev. Susan Reaves, conference secretary, read the names of clergy, a diaconal minister, and spouses who died during the year. The Rev. Doug Mitchell, Roanoke District led the prayer for the saints and the faithfully departed. Bishop Weaver closed in prayer.