



May 12, 2022

United as One in Worship is the theme of the 240th session of the Virginia Annual Conference. Our theme is based on John 4:24, a wonderfully powerful verse that reads, “*God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth.*” (CEB) As the people of God gather in worship, we come unified in the power of the Holy Spirit to give God praise and glory... in spirit and in truth. This is *necessary* and this is, therefore, *necessarily uniting!* Will you join your fellow United Methodist Annual Conference members in participating and imagining the great things that **will happen** when nearly 2,600 United Methodists gather in Hampton, Virginia to conduct all that we will do within the framework of worship?

Simply stated, our worship and teaching will center our conference together as one in spirit and truth as we...

Experience and Participate in Worship

Thursday afternoon: Opening Conference worship led by Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

Thursday evening: Service of Remembrance with Rev. Grace Han preaching

Friday morning: Mission worship with Rev. Kendra Grimes and Rev. Seungsoo Jun preaching

Friday afternoon: Retirement Service with Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown preaching

Friday evening: Service for the Ordering of Ministry with Bishop Sharma D. Lewis preaching

Saturday morning: Sending Service with Rev. Dr. Steven J. Summers preaching

Learn through Vital Teaching

Ms. Kay Kotan will provide a special time of learning during the Laity Session on Thursday morning.

Rev. Lisa Greenwood will lead plenary teaching sessions on Friday and Saturday mornings.

In preparation for annual conference, please be aware that:

1. Your official name badge and plastic badge holder will be provided to you at registration.
2. There will be a 5K walk and run at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, starting near the Convention Center. Local churches and individuals are also invited to participate virtually! For more information on mission opportunities, please check the conference website (www.vaumc.org/acmission).
3. Reports requiring action by the Annual Conference will be presented verbally. All other reports will be placed on a consent agenda.
4. The *Book of Reports* is available virtually at www.vaumc.org/AC2022. (Note, printed copies were only mailed to Annual Conference members who opted-in for a print version by the deadline.)
5. The Official Packet (which contains all official documents related to Annual Conference) will be available virtually at www.vaumc.org/officialpacket.
6. The Promo Packet (which makes available information from a variety of ministries) will be available virtually at www.vaumc.org/promopacket from June 1-30.

Appreciation is expressed to members of the Annual Conference Planning Committee, work teams, and the York River District for making this annual conference possible. As we prepare for the annual conference, I invite us to join in prayer so we may understand more clearly our calling *to make disciples of Jesus Christ who are life-long learners who influence others to serve.*

In Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven J. Summers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Dr. Steven J. Summers
Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries

***The Vision** of the Virginia Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who are life-long learners who influence others to serve.*