

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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April 21, 2021

Dear Virginia Conference,

On March 13, 2020, a letter was sent to all churches, to cancel worship services and postpone large gatherings. May 1, 2021, will mark a full year and 49 days of the churches in the Virginia Conference doing their best to "do church differently" during the pandemic. I am grateful for your faithfulness, as we continue to be followers ensuring the safety of our community.

We are encouraged to see that the Virginia Department of Health considers Clergy and Faith Leaders as frontline workers to include many in our Conference in Phase 1b. We are delighted to see many of our leaders, being fully vaccinated, and leading our community to the other side of the tunnel. I believe that we are in a critical and exciting time to prepare for the post-COVID era and how to continue our ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.

Therefore, I invite you to join the "Progress Report Webinar," hosted by the In-Person Work Group and Mission and Ministry Work Group. It will be a time for us to hear the report of these two work groups and see the new direction as we prepare for post-COVID. We invite all clergy, Healthy Church Team (HCT) members, and laity to join this virtual event.

Progress Report Webinar Date: Monday, April 26th, 2021 Time: 7:00 PM - 8:15 PM Where: VAUMC Facebook Page Live Stream (<u>www.facebook.com/vaumconf</u>)

We also invite you to fill out this short survey, which will give us an opportunity to hear your voice. <u>Click here to</u> <u>fill out the survey</u>.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone through this virtual event. I truly appreciate the hard work of our leaders, as we stand united in the mission of God! We will continue to "Unite as One," as we walk together.

Peace and Blessings,

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Bishop Sharma D. Lewis