

## PASTOR'S PAGE

Hebrews 10:24-25

“<sup>24</sup> And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. <sup>25</sup> Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.”

Dear members and friends of Central UMC,

I've recently returned from attending the Virginia Annual Conference for the 18th time. Over the years I've heard many complaints about the time and expense of gathering the clergy and laity together in person for our annual conference. During the Covid restrictions a few years ago we experienced the many drawbacks of virtual Annual Conference Sessions. This year when we gathered together in Hampton, Virginia there was a sense of joy and hope that was a refreshing change to experience. Though we met for just two and a half days there was a sense of spaciousness in the schedule. Bishop Sue intentionally leaves the evenings without conference-wide meetings or worship services to allow time for relationship building and holy conferencing (conversation with the intent of seeking God's wisdom on a matter). There were opportunities to attend additional worship services and evening events to cultivate community.

I believe that this time for holy conferencing allowed for the movement of the Holy Spirit in a new way in our conference. There was a resolution introduced that revealed some divisions in the body. Tricia's report on the conference will provide details on that specific resolution. But what left me hopeful that God was at work was that after two days of debate, a group reflecting voices with opposing opinions on the resolution stood up together to make a joint motion. They suggested another way to move forward together that was overwhelmingly supported by those present. Creating an intentional open time for people to connect in holy conferencing created space for the Holy Spirit to work within them.

During worship this summer each week following the sermon we've taken five minutes to share a conversation or silent reflections on the text from that morning. This intentional open time for people to connect in conversation in worship has blessed me each week as I've listened to what God has to say through my conversation partner. This month how might you create some time and space in your day to notice how the Holy Spirit is at work in your life?

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Sarah

## 2024 VAUMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUNE 20-22, 2024

### A CONFERENCE IN THREE MOVEMENTS

This year's Annual Conference was held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, VA with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson presiding.

The theme of the 242nd Session, "A Conference in Three Movements" emerges from the belief that there are three principal movements of the Holy Spirit taking place in the present era of the church:

1. The theological movement from prevenient grace to sanctification. This is the movement of the Holy Spirit in the human heart;
2. The historical movement of Methodism captured in our past, lived in our present, and pointed toward our future. This is the movement of the Holy Spirit in the church; and
3. The missional movement from gathered spaces into all the world. This is the movement of the Holy Spirit in community.

Our meetings provided information related to the Annual Conference session, reflections on General Conference, work of the upcoming Jurisdictional Conference and a few witnesses to the movement of the Spirit in our local churches and communities.

The celebration of our connection started with an early registration on Wednesday June 19 with this year's Laity Heart-to-Heart gathering in the Ballroom from 2:00-4:00p. This was a time for fellowship and informal conversation for all laity with members of the Conference Board of Laity, and delegation to the recent General Conference. It was also a time to celebrate Juneteenth and the opportunity for informal discussions to consider the ongoing pursuit of inter-sectional justice in the Virginia Annual Conference.

Thursday June 20: A Time of Center for the Laity Session. Laity opened with the Call to Worship followed by the Recognition of our Lay Ministry: Lay Supply Class of 2024; Certified Lay Ministers, Class of 2024; General Examination of Deaconess; and Recognition of our Common Ministry.

The afternoon business of the Annual Conference. Reports from the committees were discussed and unanimously approved, with a standing vote.

Rev. Andrew Ensz made a motion that the Annual Conference make a Resolution of Apology to LGBTQ+persons. After a number of discussions for and against, there was a motion to table the Resolution until the members have time to review the recommendations.

Friday June 21: Morning and afternoon reports from the committees were discussed and unanimously approved by the members. A Memorial Service was held in the afternoon in memory of those persons related to the Virginia Conference who died in the last year.

Saturday June 22: Morning reports were discussed and unanimously approved by the members. A new motion was made to create a Commission of Truth Telling and Reconciliation to further study the Apology resolution; members from both sides of whether to have the apology together made the motion. The Commission would report at the next Annual Conference. The motion passed and Bishop Sue offered prayer. The final agenda item was the Service of Recognition and Call. The 242nd Session of the Virginia Annual Conference adjourned at 12:30p.m. Report by: Tricia O'Hara, CLM  
June 30, 2024

## **LEADERSHIP BOARD**

The Leadership Board met on June 2 after church in person and by zoom. We continued the discussion about the rental policy of the church space for different uses (meetings, funerals, weddings, hosting traveling youth) and pricing.

Nursery care attendant has been found. We are still looking for a second person.

Discussion about security of the building. APAH is securing the outside of the building and the parking lot. Remaining question is really only about inside the church spaces. As long as our doors are locked, we think we will be ok. At this time, we will pass on our involvement in outside areas.

Pastor Sarah's review is due June 30. Mike Rugala is drafting the review.

Sharon Lovering is resigning from the Board for health reasons. Jen Tucci's term is over as of this month. We need two new Board Members. July 14 is the next Board Meeting.

## MISSIONS

Through your generous giving to the Church World Service hygiene kits we collected \$550.00 from four family units, making up 74 hygiene kits to go to Conference. In addition to the 74 kits we sent \$148.00 (\$2.00 for each kit) for shipping and handling and a tube of toothpaste. The cost for each kit according to Church World Service is \$14.00 so our total cost of kits is \$1,036.00. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile project, especially with the war in Ukraine and the many tornadoes and floods in the United States. Your Missions Team

## GO! CONFERENCE

The Northern Virginia District is starting a new program beginning August 23, 2024, called Let's Go! It will run through April 26, 2025. Go! is a new lay equipping and empowering initiative, designed to encourage boldness in building relationships and sharing Christ in your surrounding community. Participants in Go! will receive training and resources to be better evangelists in their churches and communities.

Taking into consideration the fast-paced, busy atmosphere of Northern Virginia, the development team purposefully designed a program that seeks to limit obstacles to participation. Sessions lead by seasoned practitioners will be once a month and alternate between in-person Friday evening (dinner included) and lunchtime on Wednesday. **Learn more and register for Go here- <https://novaumc.org/go/>.**



# GO! BEGINS THIS AUGUST



## SCHEDULE

2024

- August 23 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.**  
Fearfully and Wonderfully Made  
(Strength Finders and Spiritual Gifts) - [William Chaney](#)
- September 25 from 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (via Zoom)**  
Breakthrough Prayer - [Sue Nilson Kibbey](#)
- October 25 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.**  
Telling your Jesus Story - [Katie Phillips](#)
- November 20 from 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (via Zoom)**  
Listening to Your Community - [Luke Edwards](#)

2025

- January 11**  
NoVa District Training Day
- February 19 from 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (via Zoom)**  
Group Discussion
- March 21 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.**  
Connecting with people hurt by church
- April 26 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.**  
Celebration of Ministry, Meet your Coach and Sending Forth

## TEAM



**William Chaney**  
CHANNEY COACHING GROUP



**Sue Nilson Kibbey**  
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONAL CHURCH INITIATIVES, WEST OHIO



**Katie Phillips**  
VINE CHURCH PASTOR; IMPROV COMEDIAN



**Luke Edwards**  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT, WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

REGISTER NOW AT:  
[novaumc.org/go](https://novaumc.org/go)

QUESTIONS?  
[go@novaumc.org](mailto:go@novaumc.org)

God is everywhere. We can be, too.

Since we moved to our new building we have enhanced our online experience and are now live streaming our Service directly on our website at <https://www.cumcballston.org>. This change aims to provide you with a more user-friendly and integrated way to join us from the comfort of your home.

We appreciate your continued support and flexibility as we make this transition. Should you encounter any difficulties or have questions during this process, please feel free to reach out to us.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new online platform and creating an even more engaging virtual community.

Thank you for being a valued part of Central United Methodist Church.



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Youtube

Visit

<https://www.youtube.com/@CUMCBallstonVA>

If you encounter any difficulties accessing the website, you can livestream the event from our YouTube (YT) or Facebook (FB) accounts.



- Donations can be made to Central United Methodist Church as follows:
- PayPal by using the QR code on the left.
- Checks or cash donations can also be dropped in the offering box at the in-person, 10:30-11:30 a.m. worship services on Sunday mornings.
- Checks can be mailed to:  
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