



Arlington District Office
The United Methodist Church in Northern Virginia
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Arlington District Clergy,

ARLINGTON DISTRICT:

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BI-DISTRICT STAFF:

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**Coordinator for
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Chaney

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First, know that **I am in prayer for you daily by name!** I pray for your peace, your strength, and your resilience as you undertake a tremendous leadership challenge. I have been so proud of each of you! I have seen **incredible creativity and growth simply by all of us being forced to rethink worship, missions, technology, and giving.** I pray that this crisis does not go to waste, and we endure and even grow. **I would LOVE to hear of stories of things that are going well, so we can all be encouraged by them; please share them with me!**

We have many, many updates, and I want to first direct you to **two sources: vaumc.org and novaumc.org.** Look for corona virus updates daily, even hourly with the latest information. This is information directly related to the Bishop's directives and well as helpful resources that may help you and your church in this time. Please keep checking in! **Note: It was announced yesterday that in-person worship is now suspended through March 29th by the Bishop.**

Today at 2:00, we will be having a technical zoom meeting to talk about online worship, copyright issues, online giving and other technical aspects of our new normal. Please register and join in: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/vp0tfuirzMvAFcr9N7A88Jrf84AJU8iWA>

On Thursday at 3:00, I will have a check-in with Arlington clergy – if you'd like to join, no registration required, just show up. Here is the zoom code: <https://zoom.us/j/944141181>. This would be a good place to ask questions and think through issues that have arisen.

Finally: Please immediately contact me (by phone/text and email) and tell me of anyone in your congregation or connected with your church or extension ministry that has been tested positive for COVID-19, has been quarantined (self or mandated), or has been exposed to someone who has COVID-19 symptoms. This may at first sound intrusive, but we need to be able to help you with infection minimization, legal issues and media inquiries, and it will take resources from the whole connection to do these things. This is an instruction from the Chancellor's office.

Please carefully read upon receipt all emails from me, the District Office, and the Conference. The information about best practices surrounding COVID-19 is rapidly changing and your proactive leadership and cooperation is vital to the Church. Feel free to contact me for prayers or resources as needed.

You know my overall advice: Stay calm, stay connected, and stay on course!

Sarah