

Notes from the Arlington DS – 04/07/2020

1. Resources:
 - a. Novaumc.org
 - b. Vaumc.org
2. Arlington Clergy Zoom Meeting Thursdays at 3:00 (including this week!) for the duration of this time. This is always optional, but if you want the latest news and some encouragement, join us. Same invite as before:

<https://zoom.us/j/434526053>
3. Calendaring
 - a. Moved online: Clergy meeting on April 29th – stay tuned for zoom invites!
 - b. Cancelled –Clergy lunches with the DS. Sorry; we will reschedule. Join us on Thursdays instead! Or email, call or text me if you need me.
 - c. Check the website for further info or if you have questions!
4. Annual conference is moved to September 18-19. If you have accommodations through the conference, they will automatically be cancelled – watch your email.
 - a. How does this affect appointment changes? All appointments made are fine – no changes. What might change is the move date, depending on whether or not we feel it is safe to send movers into homes to move people. That might be June 24th – it might be later than that. Stay tuned.
5. CARES Act funding: If you have a loan with a bank, AND it is doing the new SBA loans – apply for the paycheck funding to help you through these times. Do it quickly – funds could run out. If you don't have a loan with a bank or you don't have a bank doing the SBA lending, we are waiting on the credit union applications as we write this today – tumcu.org. Check those out. More info on novaumc.org as it becomes available.
6. Considerations for Holy Week:
 - a. PLEASE do not do anything that brings your people to your church building or parking lot. The Bishop does not want us to be the churches that make people sick, and you don't want that either. However well intentioned, this could backfire with dire repercussions. Wait – do a big celebration when it is safe to do so!
 - b. The Bishop has ruled against online communion; see her letter for details. Other ideas – yearning for communion as part of the Easter or Maundy Thursday service, or a love feast.
7. Final Thought: You do not have to do something spectacular this Easter.
 - a. We miss our people, and we long to be together, but please do not let anxiety and stress push you into things you are not reasonable able to accomplish. Your congregation is just as impatient and stir-crazy as you are, but this is an opportunity to explore those feelings alongside the fact that Easter comes no matter what we do!

To borrow from another holiday's great story, "It came without ribbons it came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. Maybe (Easter), he thought, doesn't come from a (church). Maybe (Easter) perhaps means a little bit more" (*Thank you to Grinch Who Stole Christmas!*)