

Notes from the Arlington DS – 04/14/2020

1. NEW UPDATES:

- a. As you may have seen in the Bishop's letter this morning – we are closed for in person worship until June 10th, and we await further updates from the Governor.
 - i. So plan for June 14th as a possible in-person worship day, keeping in mind – **the virus doesn't run on our timeline.** This may change. Stay flexible, as you have done so well so far!
 - ii. Also – this is not a return to 'real', or 'normal' worship – don't let the positive changes you have accomplished get undone in a rush to give each other a hug! You have done REAL worship online and on calls and by email, etc. and it is part of a new normal that can and should survive our season of virus.
- b. We have a new move date: June 30th, with a first day in the pulpit to be July 5th. If there are issues with this for your church, let me know by email and we can work through them. Again – pay attention for possible changes, but we are trying to keep to this date so movers can be contacted.
- c. **Attached** is a new policy on clergy vacations; this was sent to your SPRC (if it doesn't make it there, let Artabia know of any updated SPRC lead's email address). This states that if you have taken your full 4 weeks allotted to this appointment year (**we track July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**), then this year only, you can carry forward up to two weeks of unused vacation.
 - i. We did this based on the assumption that many of you have been working overtime to get things to your communities, and many have missed important vacation time this spring. If you use all your vacation (and you should!) then no carryover is needed.
 - ii. Hope this helps you get the rest you need and might have "misplaced" due to the virus situation.
- d. We would like to see all clergy evaluations to the District office by June 20th; by zoom, by conference calls, by endless rounds of emails – however you need to do this please make sure it is done. Please make sure you are included in ALL the discussions – this is an SPRC meeting and you have the right to be there. I do read these, so please be sure they get to my office.
- e. We would also like to have all parsonage reviews done by June 20th – especially for those who are moving. The pastors can take the trustees on a walk through by video if we are not released from the 'stay at home' order. I can be flexible about this one but don't let it lag too far. Annual reviews are necessary to make sure the trustees are paying attention to your living spaces. This may be your opportunity to show them on video the things that need to be fixed!

2. REMINDERS:

- a. ALL churches with a payroll should be investigating the new CARES ACT PPP program – if you need help, our conference Treasurer's office can help you. This may mean a big difference to a lot of churches.

- i. I just heard about the first checks coming through today. If you get funding – not just papers but actual funds, please send me a note – I’m trying to track the banks that are working well for our churches.
 - b. If you have a preschool/daycare/childcare that wants to open up in your church, whether it is a ministry of your church or a renter – please contact me ASAP. We have forms to fill out!
 - c. We are still working on the counting of people in worship issue for EVC – hope to have updates soon, but for now, keep numbers in a consistent manner week to week.
 - d. You should have received a cancellation of any hotel rooms you got for Annual Conference through the Conference office.
3. Resources:
 - a. Novaumc.org
 - b. Vaumc.org
4. Arlington Clergy Zoom Meeting Thursdays at 3:00 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>

You are doing great, hard work, and it is my honor to serve you. You are doing discipleship and transformation in a unique way right now, and thank you for that work and I pray for you all daily by name.

Stay Calm, Stay Connected, Stay the Course!

