

Notes from the Arlington DS – 04/28/2020

My thought for this week: We can't do it all!

I'm spending time thinking about leadership and how to deploy my gifts and strengths and ask for help around my weaknesses. I'm comfortable with my strategic gifts – but I am asking for help around the fine details of things like financial goals and administrative issues. I'd recommend leaning into your StrengthFinders results from last summer- what is your gifting in a time of extraordinary changes? Where do you need to ask for help from your congregation and/or staff? A good leader knows their strengths and their challenges. This work takes rest, thinking/quiet time and intentionality; I pray that you find some of that in the next few weeks.

I am so encouraged and proud of the work you have accomplished so far! Remember: Stay Calm, Stay Connected, Stay the Course!

1. NEW UPDATES:

- a. Yes, District apportionments are still to be paid, as best each church can. A big THANK YOU to those that have been able to make these payments and/or catch up. Arlington, however, has one of the lowest rates of paid District apportionments in the Conference right now. If you got your PPP loans, if you are in a good place, please consider restarting to pay these important connectional funding if you've been unable to do so until now.
- b. Cabinet is working on an opening protocol for the Conference – we hope to have these out to you so you can prepare the church for the currently expected post - June 10th opening.
- c. Here's a great link to a video and worksheet that might help you think through "what's next"... Please read when you get a chance, and we will draw on this at our next Thursday Clergy chat (not this week – we don't have one this week; but May 7th)
 - i. <https://mailchi.mp/0783239d59f5/four-steps-you-need-to-take-now-as-we-move-into-phase-2-of-covid?e=80cc425e6c>
- d. Cynthia Lopynski from our office is offering mystery worshipers for your online services. – Contact her at CynthiaLopynski@vaumc.org

2. REMINDERS:

- a. Tomorrow is a "real" clergy meeting with Amy Oden that I expect everyone to attend. – We will meet from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29. Here's the link to register so we don't get zoom bombed!
<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAlce6qpjgiHNbyAgGK6ZCTt305RIN8R4lc&sa=D&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw34pgtE0rIVBLqPnJskAgBx>
- b. We are closed for in person worship until June 10th, and we await further updates from the Governor and/or Bishop.
- c. There have been some questions about online communion: Bishop Lewis has not allowed for online communion, although other Bishops may have in other conferences. See her announcement at our District and Conference resource pages.

- d. Kim Johnson continues to do digital communications consultations –
<https://calendly.com/kimjohnson-vaumc/church-communications-consultation>
 - e. Please take our online clergy survey if you haven't done so already! Here's the link:
<https://novadistricts.wufoo.com/forms/now-what/>
 - f. The CARES Act's small business support, PPP, was re-funded - don't stop the process at your local bank or the Virginia Credit Union.
 - g. We would like to see all clergy evaluations & parsonage inspections to the District office by June 20th. You can do these by video, if need be.
 - h. 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!
3. Resources:
- a. <https://novaumc.org/covid-19/>
 - b. Vaumc.org
4. Arlington Clergy Zoom Meeting **Thursdays at 3:00** for the duration of this time (except for this week - when we should all be at the Amy Oden official clergy meeting, see above) . 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>

Sarah