



# ST. GEORGE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Welcoming Community Groups Back to Our Facilities

October 13, 2020

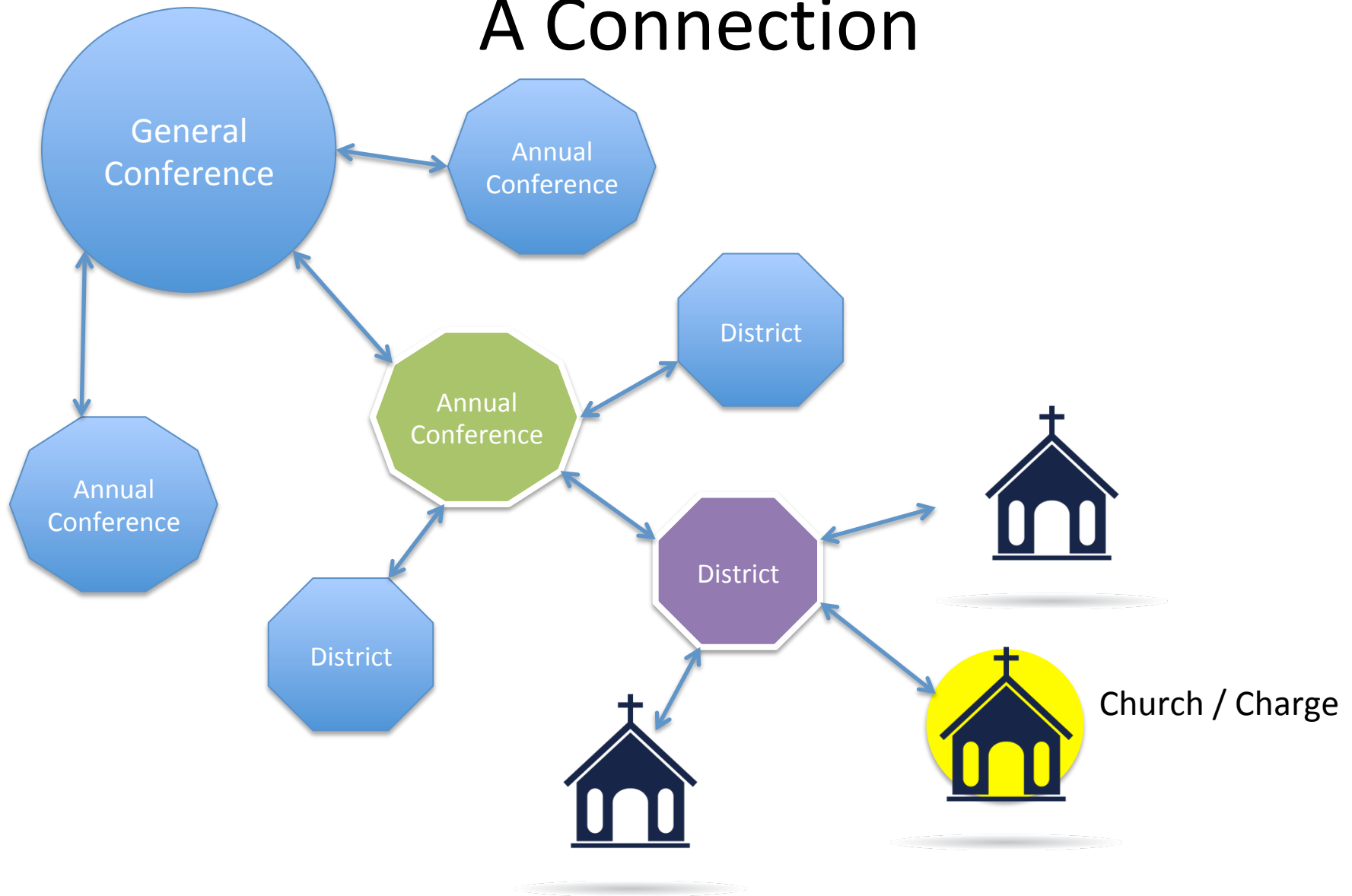
### Agenda

- Welcome
- The United Methodist Church
  - A Connection
  - How we've organized
- The Protocols
- The Process
- Open Discussion / Q&A

# We Haven't Forgotten You

- Prayer lists, groups, individual prayers
- Our own planning and investments
- Keep in mind: We were overwhelmed by this when we started
- We have learned lessons
  
- Introductions: CP Watkins, Lay Leader, HCT
  - NOT a Scientist
  - NOT a Lawyer

# The United Methodist Church: A Connection



# How We've Organized



## Virginia Annual Conference



[vaumc.org/return/](http://vaumc.org/return/)

– Bishop Sharma Lewis

- Mission & Ministry Workgroup (Handbook for Local Churches)
- Workgroup on Return to In Person Worship

– Technical Assistance Manual (TAM)



## Alexandria District



[novaumc.org/returning-to-the-church-building/](http://novaumc.org/returning-to-the-church-building/)

– Superintendent Jeff Mickle



## St. George's UMC



[stgeorgesfairfax.org/regathering.html](http://stgeorgesfairfax.org/regathering.html)

– Pastor Sandi Plasters

- Church Office
- Church Council
  - Trustees
  - Healthy Church Team (HCT)



# Church & State Comparison



## UMC Va Conference

- [vaumc.org/return](http://vaumc.org/return)
- STAGE 2
  - Various “options”
  - Strict Protocols Generally and Strict Protocols Specifically
- Some Strict Protocols Generally
  - Post signage prohibiting people with *2 or more symptoms* or positive test *without complete resolution*, or known exposure to someone with 2 or more symptoms in past 14 days
  - Cloth face coverings required *upon exiting vehicle (parking lot) outside*, always when inside
  - Post signage and *enforce* social distancing
  - Gathering size limited to *lower of 50 or 50% occupancy* unless a worship service officiated by the Pastor which can be up to 250 or 50% occupancy



## Commonwealth of VA

- [virginia.gov/coronavirus/](http://virginia.gov/coronavirus/)
- STAGE 3
  - Various “scopes”
  - Mandatory Requirements and Best Practices
- Common Mandatory Requirements include
  - Post signage prohibiting people with symptoms or positive test in *prior 10 days*, or known exposure in prior 14 days
  - Cloth face coverings required indoors (EO63)
  - Post signage *reminding* social distancing
  - No gatherings of greater than 250

# The Protocols

Technical Assistance Manual (TAM)

<http://doc.vaumc.org/News2020/TAM.pdf>

Latest Version: 9/10/2020, 30 pages

*Stage 2 Requirements*

A: HCT Requirements

B: Limited Childcare

C: Drive-In Worship

D: In-Person Worship

E: Non-Worship Gatherings

F: Communion

Strict Requirements Generally

Strict Requirements Specifically

# Stage 2 Strict Requirements (General)

- Establish HCTs and Develop Plans
- Submit plans 10 days in advance to District
  
- Individuals must perform pre-attendance temperature check (<100.4)
- Two options for Health Acknowledgment
  - Online Form submitted to Church Office
  - Entryway Acknowledgment, provide name and contact information submitted to Church Office
  - Accommodations for anonymity
- Have a vehicle traffic flow and building traffic flow plan/team
- Enforcement: Greeting outside the building (proper physical social distancing— stay 6 feet or more away from others) to check that each person entering is wearing a face covering
- Comply with and enforce strict physical social distancing (stay 6 feet or more away from others) protocol at all times. Seating in the building will be 6 feet apart from those that are not immediate family members
- No shared materials and limited access to church facilities, including restrooms
- No in-person singing
- No handshakes or hugging
- No coffee\*, no eating or drinking. On site meal prep allowed for off-site distribution only

# Individual Requirements

## At home before you depart

1. Take temperature (<100.4F)
2. Assess your own health using Health Acknowledgement Form
3. Bring with you your own personal protective equipment (mask, hand sanitizer, gloves, etc.)
4. Prepare yourself for limited restroom use at church

## Health Acknowledgement

1. I have not had 2 or more symptoms in the past 14 days
2. I have not been in contact with anyone experiencing symptoms in the past 14 days
3. I have not tested positive, nor waiting test results, nor tested positive and not had complete resolution of symptoms
4. I will immediately notify the pastor if, after attending, I develop 2 or more symptoms, will avoid contact, will seek medical attention

### Health Acknowledgement

Welcome! We're glad you're here.  
In order to keep you and other congregants safe and healthy, read and respond to the health questions below. Please affirm to the greeter that you acknowledge the following items are true for you and provide your name and contact number. All persons are required to keep physical distancing of 6 feet or more (from persons outside your household group) and to wear a face covering.



I have not had 2 or more of the following symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days:

- Fever
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Persistent cough
- Flu-like symptoms
- Diarrhea or intestinal upset
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Recent loss of taste or smell

**1.**

I have not been in contact with anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (identified in #1) in the past 14 days.

**2.**

I have not tested positive for COVID-19, nor am I awaiting test results, nor have I tested positive and have not subsequently had complete resolution of COVID-19 symptoms.

**3.**

**4.** I will immediately notify the pastor if, after attending this event, I develop 2 or more symptoms of COVID-19, will avoid contact with others, and will seek medical attention.

If you are sick or feel sick, stay home!



# Cleaning

- Cleaning supplies must be on List N of EPA-approved disinfectant products:  
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Cleaners must wear gloves, masks, remove/dispose of cleaning rags/towels
- How / what to clean:
  - Follow the label instructions (surface time)
  - Inside, high touch areas (light switches, door handles, chairs, tables, railings)
  - Restrooms: Before event and between each use
  - Hard Surfaces: easy / spray & wipe
  - Soft Porous Surfaces: difficult / launder, mist & wipe
  - Outside: handrails, maybe. Routine cleaning sufficient
  - Clean within 24 hours prior and immediately after event
- Groups must purchase / store their own supplies

# Exposures

## Planning for Exposure (TAM)

1. Identify / prepare an isolation or holding room for those who are symptomatic
2. Have on hand contact information for medical professionals and local public health authority, 911 address of the church, local emergency departments, in a visible place in the church
3. Have a procedure to accommodate for volunteers who are absent
4. Communicate your plan

## Responding to Exposure

1. Report ASAP to Pastor (we must report as well)
2. Close affected areas, increase ventilation
3. Wait 24 hours before cleaning (after 7 days, CDC says routine cleaning is sufficient)
4. Clean and disinfect affected areas, vacuum with HEPA filter if possible

# Strict Requirements Specific to Groups

- Limited to no more than 50 persons with 6-foot social distancing between all persons (excepting those who are in household groups) and face coverings.
- Must apply all the standards of Attachments B and D to any in-person gatherings, including the provisions for
  - Health Acknowledgement Forms
  - cleaning
  - face coverings
  - proper social distancing
- The HCT must then submit the plan for in-person gatherings to the District Superintendent for approval.

*B: Limited Child Care  
D: In-person worship*

# Request Facility Use: The Process

- St. George's Activity Request Form
- Send form (plan) to Margaret at the Church Office
- HCT reviews plan for compliance with protocols
- Church Council reviews plan for scheduling overlap
- Pastor forwards plan to District Superintendent
- Church office notification of approved plans or any required updates
- Once plan is approved, arrange to sign for a new key

We are asking for you to submit plans 14 days prior to your event

# Your Plan Must Include

1. Cleaning Plan
  - Pre and post-event cleaning / disinfection
  - Cleaning restroom after each use during event
2. Enforcement Plan
  - Proper mask wearing and social distancing
  - From parking lot to room, back to vehicles
3. Traffic Flow Plan
  - Vehicle parking
  - Moving inside the building
4. Plan for Participants to Report / Acknowledge Health
  - Pre-event health form submission OR
  - Acknowledge health poster AND collect contact info
5. Contingency Plan
  - If there is an exposure
  - If someone refuses to comply with the protocols
6. Communications Plan

# Identify / Limit Facility Use Requirement



Limit movement to areas you clean  
We are working to create "zones"

Events are restricted to 50 people  
Rooms are restricted to 50% occupancy



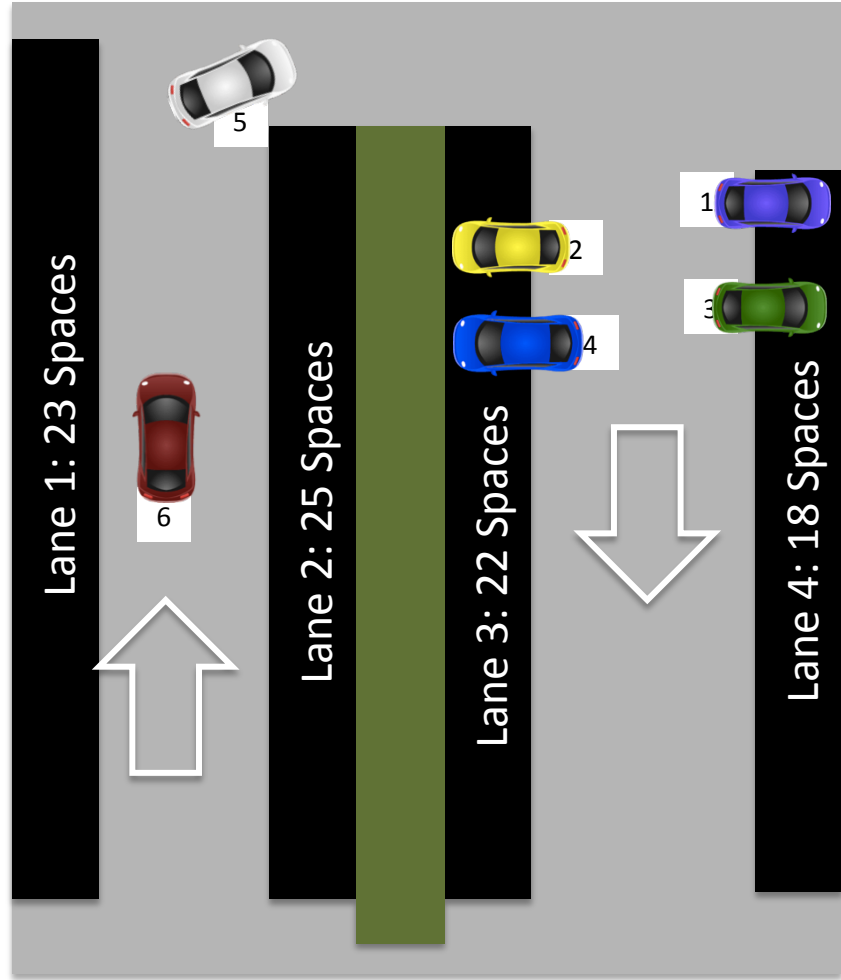
# Parking / Traffic Flow Plan

## Lower Lot (88):

Park every other space until 44 cars  
Then fill empty spaces



## Upper Lot (22)



# Points of Contact

- Pastor Sandi: [pastor@stgumc.org](mailto:pastor@stgumc.org)
- Church Office: [office@stgumc.org](mailto:office@stgumc.org)
- CP Watkins, HCT: [layleader@stgumc.org](mailto:layleader@stgumc.org)
- Jeff Copeland, Trustees: [trustees@stgumc.org](mailto:trustees@stgumc.org)

VA UMC Protocols here: [vaumc.org/return/](http://vaumc.org/return/)

St. George's Regathering Page (with this presentation) here:  
[stgeorgesfairfax.org/regathering.html](http://stgeorgesfairfax.org/regathering.html)