



SALISBURY DISTRICT

*United Methodist Church
Peninsula-Delaware Conference*

Rev. Fred Duncan
District Superintendent

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TO: THE CHURCHES OF THE SALISBURY DISTRICT
FROM: REV. FRED DUNCAN, DS
RE: 2017 CHURCH/CHARGE CONFERENCE SEASON
DATE: JUNE 22, 2017

Pastors, Lay Leaders:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I trust that this memo finds you well rested and enjoying some vacation time this summer.

As we enter our fifth Church/Charge Conference season, I want to share with you a new and exciting way we will be doing them this year. After much thought and prayer, I believe this change will benefit not only you, but our work with you as your District Superintendent. In the name of good stewardship, efficiency, and community building, I am conducting, in most cases, “cluster” meetings beginning in September.

In order to be better stewards of our precious resources of time, talent, gifts and service, it is my hope that “clustering” certain Church/Charge Conferences will be a step in that direction. Although this will be a new approach for the Salisbury District, it has proven very effective and beneficial in other districts around the Conference.

Here is how it will work:

SCHEDULDING:

- Large churches will receive their own Church Conference
- Churches with special circumstances or issues will have their own Church Conference
- Churches or Charges with newly appointed pastors will have their own Church/Charge Conference
- Church/Charge Conferences will be grouped by geography and size
- The DS reserves the right to assign the churches/charges to their clusters

PROCESS FOR HOLY CONFERENCING:

- Each church shall make enough packets for their members only.
- Each church should seek preliminary approval of all reports at an Administrative Council BEFORE the Church/Charge conference.
- Open with worship. **Host church will be prepared to offer Holy Communion elements only. The DS will provide the chalice and plate. An opening hymn will be sung so a musician/organist will be needed.**
- Invite Pastor and/or Lay Leader to share one or two ministries they feel God is growing and bearing fruit. (alternate between churches)
- Each church's reports will be received as an offering to God.
- Vote, as necessary, on reports, including any removal of members.
- SPRC recommendation of Pastoral Compensation: Each church to read their reports silently. Then, ask if any questions. Then, vote on each compensation packet individually.
- Nominations and Leadership Development: Each church to review the names in their packets. Asked each church, in turn, for any nominations from the floor. Vote on each one in turn.
- If Lay Servants or CLM's or candidates for ministry need vote, take that vote.
- Last segment of time to learn from each other through dialogue. Invite anyone who wants to share to do so, listening for any ideas God has revealed to them through this time of Holy Conferencing. Each person should write down at least one take-away, to take back to their Administrative Council for discussion.

CHURCH OR CLUSTER ASSIGNMENT:

Large Membership Churches:

Atlantic, Asbury, Bethesda, Christ, Antioch/Asbury, Trinity, Wesley Temple, Ocean Pines, Grace

Special Circumstance Churches (new pastor, ethnic, missional, other special circumstances)

Nanticoke-Westside Charge, First Haitian, Quantico Charge, Shiloh (Crisfield), Hebron-St. Pauls (Uprising), Washington, Riverside, Salisbury Korean, Taylorville, Galestown/Wheatley's, Sharptown-Zion, Calvary (Berlin), Elzey's, Deal Island-St. Charles, John Wesley (Mt. Vernon), Trinity (Princess Anne), Higher Hope in Christ, Mt. Pleasant/Friendship (Willards), Rehobeth/Mt Olive, Snow Hill-Ebenezer, Ewell-Smith, Mardela Springs

BY COMMUNITY:

BERLIN:	St. Paul's, New Bethel/St. John's Stevenson, Friendship, Bethany
BISHOPVILLE:	Bishopville, Showell, Curtis
CRISFIELD:	Immanuel, Mt. Pleasant, Asbury/Mariners, John Wesley
DEAL ISLAND:	Deal Island-St. Johns/St.Pauls/Rock Creek, Oriole/Dames Quarter
DELMAR:	St. Stephens, Union, Melson's
FRUITLAND:	St. Johns, Allen, Calvary/Friendship
GIRDLETREE:	Girdletree, Girdletree-Stockton
HEBRON:	Rockawalkin, Nelson's Memorial
POCOMOKE:	Salem/Bethany, Mt. Zion/St James, Shiloh (Pocomoke)
SALISBURY:	Union, St. Andrews, Charity, Walston Switch-Bethel, Mt. Hermon Zion/Jerusalem
SNOW HILL:	Bates, Whatcoat, Newark, Mt. Olive
SHARPTOWN:	Asbury/Riverton/Cokesbury, Mt. Vernon/Mt. Hermon
PRINCESS ANNE:	Metropolitan, Cottage Grove, Oakville
WESTOVER:	Marion Station-Handys/Mt Peer, St. James, St. Andrews, Samuel Wesley/Ebenezer
WHALEYVILLE:	Whaleyville, Powellville, Pittsville-Willards, New Hope/St. Martins

Needless to say, this is will be a “new thing” God is doing in our midst, for not only for you, but for me as well. I urge you to encourage as many of your leadership teams to attend your Church/Charge Conference as possible. (You know how hard it is to get people out. This may be a way for more and greater participation). This is the most important meeting of the year for each church so please give it the urgency and importance it deserves.

Thank you for working with me over the past 4 years and helping make the “Might Salisbury District” the blessing to this Conference it is.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Duncan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rev. Fred Duncan