



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

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To: Staff Parish Chairs
Local Church Pastors
Administrative Staff

PAUMCS (The Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure) was organized nationally, as the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries, on April 14, 1982 in Dallas, Texas. The Virginia Chapter (VA PAUMCS) was established in March 1999. Since then membership has grown as has attendance at each of PAUMCS's two annual events.

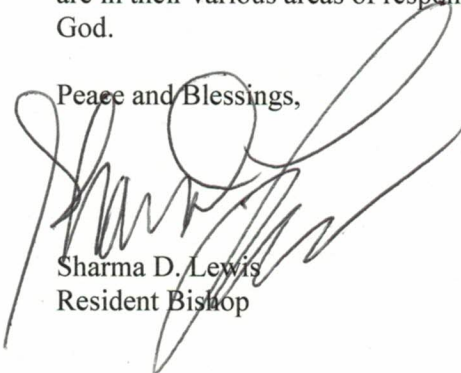
The purpose of VA PAUMCS is to provide a supportive base for the unity and fellowship of its members as well as to provide opportunities for individual growth, professional development, continuing education, and spiritual enrichment. Additionally, VA PAUMCS serves as an advocate for emerging concerns that affect local church, district and conference administrative and support personnel.

On Wednesday, October 31, VA PAUMCS will host this year's fall event, "Experience your Conference Connection 2018," at the United Methodist Conference Center in Glen Allen. Conference Communications director Madeline Pillow and Conference videographer Nick Ruxton will lead the workshop covering social media for churches. Social media has vastly changed how society communicates and how people expect to communication to happen. These changes require the church to keep up with changing technology and communication trends in the outside society.

I encourage you to make every effort to promote this significant training event to the members of your local church, district or conference administrative and support staff, whether these persons are full-time, part-time, paid or volunteer. Also, I would encourage you to include this important continuing education event in your local church, district, or conference budget and allow persons who wish to participate to do so without counting it as a vacation day. This really isn't vacation, but a busy day designed to provide many worthwhile benefits not only to the participants but to their many "work places" as well.

It is clear that those who work in the various administrative and support staff positions in the Church are called to ministry as surely as any pastor. It is also clear that the more effective and efficient these persons are in their various areas of responsibility, the greater the opportunities for advancing the Kingdom of God.

Peace and Blessings,


Sharma D. Lewis
Resident Bishop