



**Roanoke District
Virginia Conference
United Methodist Church**

J. Douglas Forrester
District Superintendent

July 21, 2021

Dear colleagues,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray your summer has been full of God's blessings and that you have found some time for sabbath and personal renewal. I am writing to you today with information regarding how this year's annual charge conferences will be held.

While I would love to be at each congregation's charge conference again this year, my assuming the role of Staunton District Superintendent in addition to my role as Roanoke District Superintendent makes that untenable.

Paragraph 246.5 of the *2016 Book of Discipline* makes provision for elders designated by the District Superintendent to preside at charge conferences. As such, I will be authorizing our elders to set the date and preside at their own charge conferences. I am requiring, however, that copies of all of your charge conference paperwork is submitted to the District office no later than two weeks prior to the date you choose. I will be sending you another communication that includes a checklist for your paperwork as well as guidance as you preside to help assure things go smoothly.

For congregations served by clergy and lay supply other than elders, your charge conferences will happen at scheduled cluster gatherings and will be presided over by active and retired elders who I am recruiting to assist in this way. As always paperwork will still need to be submitted to the District office two weeks prior to the date of the charge conference. I am in the process of scheduling these cluster gatherings now and deciding where they will be held, so more information will be forthcoming.

As always, my office is available to help you or answer questions you may have.

I give thanks to God for each of you in my daily prayers as you lead your congregations in the holy work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. May the God of all hope bless you and keep you, now and always.

Grace and peace,

Doug