



**Roanoke District
Virginia Conference
United Methodist Church**

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District Superintendent

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Friends,

Grace to you, and peace.

Sunday is coming. The called General Conference has concluded. When you gather for worship you will sit next to those who think the church has acted faithfully and those who think it has been faithless. On your left might be those who rejoice and on your right those who mourn. There is much to understand and interpret in the coming days. The slim margins of each vote that I observed (except for a few purely procedural ones) indicate the division and brokenness we are experiencing as a global denomination. The Judicial Council will convene in April to consider the constitutionality of what was approved. We will know more in the coming weeks about the actual impact of this week's work.

Sunday is coming. All who are a part of your congregation, who have been welcomed and baptized, who serve in leadership and who engage in study and worship together will still do that on Sunday.

Sunday is coming. Gather as friends and siblings in faith, greet one another in the name of Christ, crucified and risen. Kneel at the altar in confession and repentance. Receive the gift of God's grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion. Sing together in the choir, in unison and in harmony. Pray for the witness of Christ to a world torn apart by disaster, abuse, poverty, violence. Vow to love and serve those whom Jesus loves. Give that vow hands and feet and voice in your community and to the ends of the earth.

On Monday, watch Bishop Lewis lead "State of the Church: Where do we go from here?" Engage one another in conversation.

On every day, care for the brokenhearted, pray and work together as you give witness to the unity found in the bonds of Christ.

Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21, CEB)

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