



Baltimore-Washington Conference

The United Methodist Church

Central Maryland District Cluster Church Conference Agenda Fall 2019

Welcome and Introduction

Host Pastor and District Superintendent

Devotion:

Opening Prayer

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16

Reflection on the Word

Worship Hymns: Blessed Assurance (#369) and Spirit Song (#347)

Presiding Elder

Presiding Elder

District Superintendent

Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.

*Put me to what thou wilt, rank me
with whom thou wilt.*

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

*Let me be employed for thee or laid
aside for thee,*

*exalted for thee or brought low for
thee.*

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.



*I freely and heartily yield all
things to thy pleasure and
disposal.*

*And now, O glorious and
blessed God, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I
am thine. So be it.*

*And the covenant which I have
made on earth,*

let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

Church Conference Business with Presiding Elder

Summaries

- Pastor's Report
- Reports from Retired Clergy
- Reports from Clergy in other Relationships

Voting on

- Clergy Compensation Report
- Inactive Membership Report
- Nominations Report
- Candidates for Ordained Ministry
- Certified Lay Servants, Lay Speakers, and Lay Ministers
- Church Conference packet

Pastors: Please plan to bring to your church conference, copies of all documents that require the Presiding Elder's signature. We also ask that you check with the Presiding Elder of your church conference to be sure all required signatures have been acquired before the church conference concludes.

Adjournment - Go in peace!

(feel free to leave when your church conference is finished)

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:1-16 (The Message)

4 ¹⁻³ In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.

⁴⁻⁶ You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.

⁷⁻¹³ But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift. The text for this is,

He climbed the high mountain,
He captured the enemy and seized the booty,
He handed it all out in gifts to the people.

Is it not true that the One who climbed up also climbed down, down to the valley of earth? And the One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for impostors. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.