

Dear Members and Friends of the West Virginia Conference,

Yesterday, the Commission on General Conference shared the news some had been expecting -there is a further postponement of the 2020 General Conference session. The General Conference session will now take place August 29 - September 6, 2022, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The United Methodist Church is a global Church, and the COVID-19 pandemic continues to negatively impact the safety of large gatherings and travel.

In this time of global pandemic, I continuously give thanks for our West Virginia Conference Churches, the pastors, and the lay leadership. These are difficult, challenging, and uncertain times, yet you faithfully shine the light of Christ. You continue to give hope to the hopeless and to care for our neighbors with the love of Christ. You have adapted and learned to accomplish worship, mission, and ministry in new ways. Your witness, faithfulness, and dedication to multiplying the Good News of Christ brings me joy!

Please keep the West Virginia Conference delegation members in your prayers. The delegation has been praying and meeting together.

We are in a continued time of disruption, not unlike what Jesus experienced in his journey to the Cross. May we all do as Jesus did when He walked among us: pray for God's will to be done, and share God's sacrificial, life-saving love.

Peace,

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball