



Pender UMC 101

Pender Leaders Share How Our Church Works From
Finances to Fellowship

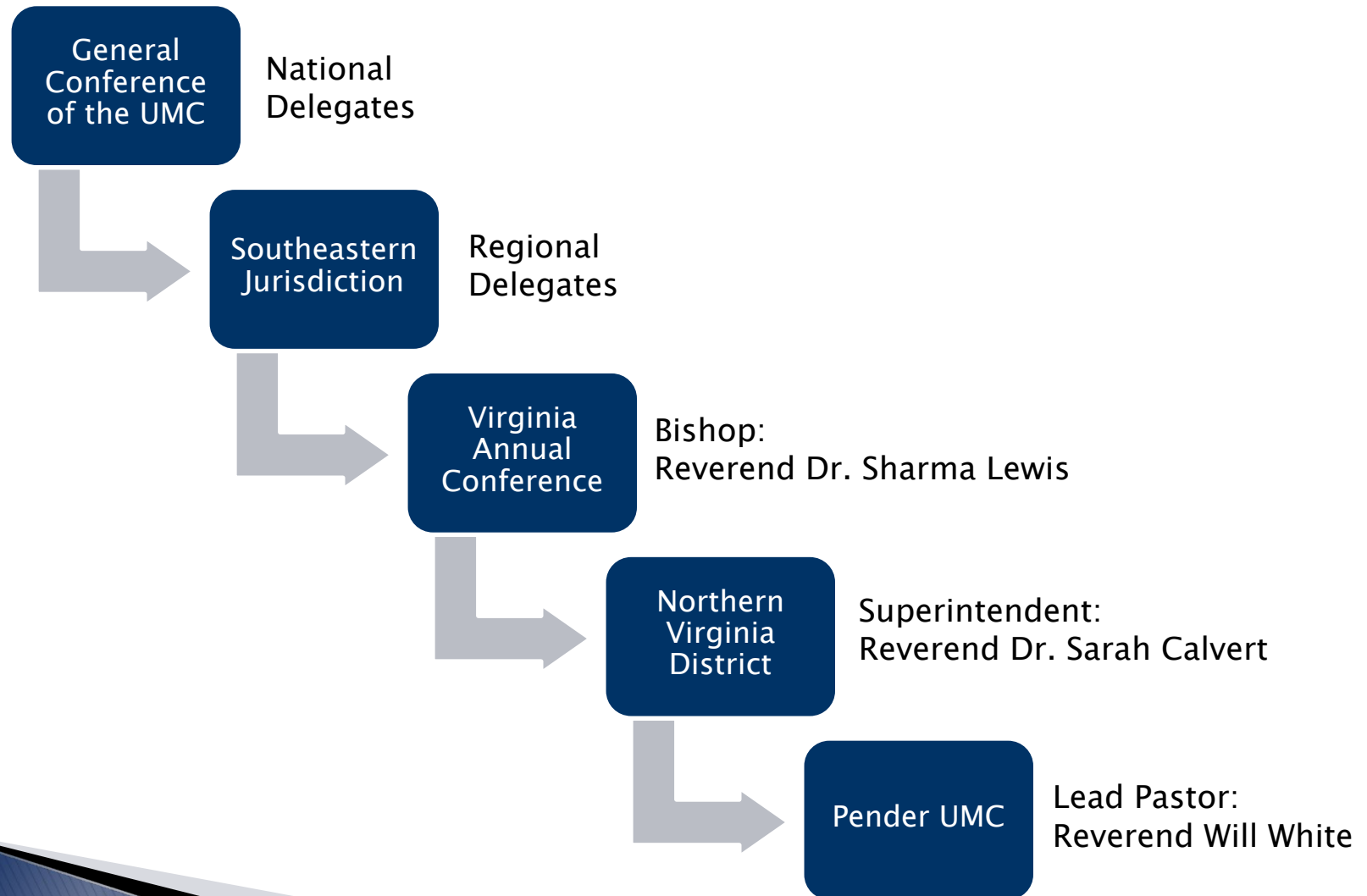
Challenges Facing the Church Today

As the United Methodist Church considers some of the most important proposals it has ever faced, it is more important now than ever to know how the local church, Northern Virginia District of the UMC, Virginia Annual Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction, and General Conference function.



Organization of the United Methodist Church

UMC – Functional Flow Chart





How Decisions are Made in The United Methodist Church

The Local Church (Pender United Methodist)

- Local Church provides the arena through which disciple-making occurs.
 - Community of believers under our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Redemptive fellowship in which the word of God is preached by persons divinely called and the sacraments, (Holy Communion and Baptism) are duly administered.
 - The church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers and the redemption of the world.
 - (¶201 – United Methodist Book of Discipline.
 - The Church Council and Charge Conference are the primary decision-making bodies for the local church.
 - (¶248–¶252, United Methodist BOD)
 - Joe Mace is the current Church Council Chair.
 - Pastors are assigned by the Bishop of the Virginia Annual Conference on year-by-year basis in consultation with the eight District Superintendents and the local church S/PPRC.
 - (¶429, S/PPRC, United Methodist BOD).

Northern Virginia District

➤ District Superintendents:

- There are eight in the Virginia Annual Conference, serving sixteen districts. These eight District Superintendents make up the Bishop's Cabinet.

➤ Northern Virginia District:

- Pender United Methodist Church is one of the approximately 106 churches that make up the Northern Virginia District. The Reverend Dr. Sarah Calvert is the Superintendent of the Arlington–Alexandria Districts.
- These two Districts represent approximately 62,000 United Methodists.
- The Districts provide periodic leadership training events and support for the local churches, as well as administrative oversight.

Virginia Annual Conference

- The Annual Conference meets yearly and is presided over by the Bishop.
- The Bishop of the Virginia Annual Conference is the Rev. Dr. Sharma D. Lewis.
- Each local church sends one clergy delegate and one local church delegate to Annual Conference.
 - The clergy delegate for Pender UMC is Rev. William M. White.
 - The lay delegate position is currently vacant.
- The Annual Conference approves budgets for Annual Conference ministries and staff. It also approves apportionments for the local church. In addition, it approves benefits such as vacation policies and health care for clergy members of the Virginia Annual Conference.
- It also passes resolutions that represent the delegate's positions on current social issues, which are not binding on the local church.

Southeastern Jurisdiction

- The Southeastern Jurisdiction typically meets every four years unless a special called session is required.
- The purpose of the Jurisdictional meetings are to elect Bishops from among the clergy delegates sent by their respective Annual Conferences.
- Each Annual Conference elects lay and clergy delegates to attend.
- The number of delegates is proportional based on the size of the Annual Conference.
- Fifteen Annual Conferences from Virginia to Florida comprise the Southeastern Jurisdiction.
- The Southeastern Jurisdiction meets in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church

- This is the only body that can change the United Methodist Book of Discipline. (§16 & §501BOD)
- The GC has 862 delegates. It is an international body with lay and clergy delegates being elected proportionally by each Annual Conference.
- The delegates come from the 130 countries around the world. They come primarily from North America, Asia, and Africa.

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church

- A called General Conference meeting was scheduled for the summer of 2020. However, it was cancelled due to COVID. A virtual session was scheduled for 2021, but it also was cancelled for procedural reasons and problems associated with electronic voting.
- Another session was scheduled for 2022, however it was also postponed due to a variety of concerns and the next conference is now scheduled for 2024.
- Your prayers are requested that the Conference will be able to meet to consider the important issues before it.