



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

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Addressing the Technical Issues at the 238th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference on September 19, 2020

Dear Virginia Annual Conference:

I again apologize for the serious technical issues on Saturday, September 19, 2020, that forced postponement of the 238th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference. Also, I thank you again for your patience throughout this difficult situation, particularly your non-anxious presence on Saturday.

Option Technologies, the consultant retained for the Annual Conference to handle numerous information technology issues, including the voting function, has also apologized for the failures and for letting the Conference down. These developments are especially disappointing as weeks of planning and preparation were conducted by hundreds of people, including Friday's simulation.

I am in extensive discussions with the Cabinet and others to formulate the best approach to ensure that the Annual Conference's business is properly conducted, including ensuring an easy-to-use and fully accurate voting system. I will keep you apprised of significant developments.

Thank you again for your patience and God bless you.

Peace and Blessings,

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis